Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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DPW issues notice of violations to IPI

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Browne

» CCC chairman clarifies there's no order to stop work against IPI
» IPI CEO says it's just clerical issues

The Building Safety Code Division of the Department of Public Works recently notified Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC about alleged IPI violations pertaining to its ongoing construction of a casino/resort project in Garapan. IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne later described the violations as "clerical issues" that will soon be resolved. See DPW on Page 4

CCC execs OK'd to set hearing date on five complaints vs IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board decided yesterday to authorize its chairman, Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, and vice chairman, Ramon M. Dela Cruz, to set a hearing date on the five complaints See CCC on Page 4

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero presides over a monthly meeting at the CCC's conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai yesterday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CPA stays afloat with fed funds

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a ruinous impact on the CNMI's tourism economy but the Commonwealth Ports Authority has so far been staying afloat, thanks to a combination of belt-tightening and the infusion of federal dollars.
See CPA on Page 4

Farm plots for Saipan's green thumbs

» 10 more Saipan village homestead lots tagged in existing subdivisions

In an effort to increase food sustainability on Saipan, DPL will make available over 200 farm plots, consisting of 1,000 square meters, to private individuals for "subsistence farming."
See FARM on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
➤ DPL to lift grazing permit moratorium for Saipan. PAGE 9

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 22, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	3,886	82	3,968
Recovered	2,354	44	2,398
Active	1,420	82	1,502
Deaths	67	1	68
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			61,443

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	88	2	88
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

INSIDE

LOCAL
PIC Saipan reopens its rooms and a portion of its famous waterpark starting tomorrow.
PAGE 6

BUSINESS
Saipan Toys, LLC along Middle Road in Gualo Rai sells 'toys for the big boys.'
PAGE 14

ASIA
The Philippines on Wednesday lifted a ban on non-essential foreign trips by Filipinos.
» PAGE X

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Local

APA sues Calif. equipment handling company

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Asia Pacific Airlines under Aero Micronesia is suing a California-based ground handling company for breach of contract after its allegedly failed to deliver two cargo loaders that the airline had ordered.

Steven Pixley, who represents Asia Pacific, is suing Mercury GSE for breach of contract, restitution, and conversion. Asia Pacific is demanding a jury trial and is seeking damages and the return of $144,000 that the company claims they paid as a security deposit. The complaint also asks the court to award Asia Pacific pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, costs and other awards, plus other relief the court deems just.

Mercury GSE has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the lawsuit due to lack of personal jurisdiction and improper venue. Sean Frink, who represents Mercury, explained that jurisdiction over a defendant is determined by looking at the defendant's contacts with the jurisdiction, not the plaintiff's. Frink argues that Mercury simply has had no contact with the CNMI.

Frink said Asia Pacific essentially admitted to it by making no real allegations of Mercury's contact with the CNMI in its complaint. Instead, Asia Pacific Airlines rested its jurisdiction and venue argument wholly on the facts that the airline, a Guam corporation, regularly does business in the CNMI and is owned by a CNMI corporation and that the airline claims that it intended to use the equipment it was to purchase from Mercury in the CNMI.

According to the lawsuit, on or about June 25, 2018, APA president Adam Ferguson met with James Spiegel, a sales representative for Mercury GSE, and Bob Travis, its chief operating officer in Torrance, California, to talk about buying two 2000 FMC Commander 15 cargo loaders. They also discussed the repair of a used Lantis Loader KL-206 and the shipment of this cargo loader from the Seattle airport to Mercury GSE's Santa Fe Springs facility.

On July 24, 2018, Spiegel emailed Ferguson and offered to sell two cargo loaders that they claimed were fully serviced, repaired and painted for $165,000 each. Two days later, Spiegel told Ferguson that Mercury GSE would sell them the two cargo loaders refurbished and painted for $160,000 each. Spiegel added the repair work would start after the beginning of September once they had completed the move. The estimate completion time for both units was about 8-10 weeks but Mercury

See APA on Page 4

Candidates at a Glance

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Zoning OKs some applications to rezone with some conditions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board has approved the application of some landowners in San Vicente to rezone properties from village commercial to mixed commercial, with the condition to expand the area for rezoning, in order for them to operate a cannabis retail store.

Dela Cruz

The area covered for rezoning expansion is from the Northern Marianas College traffic light to the San Vicente traffic light.

Napu Inc., which owns a lot, along with other owners of parcels of land in the area, filed a conditional use application with Zoning to rezone the properties in San Vicente. The owners of Napu Inc. are George Fleming and Barbara Hofschneider.

At the Zoning Board's public hearing at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret Tuesday night, Zoning administrator Geralyn C. Dela Cruz said that, based on their staff evaluation of Napu Inc.'s application, they have determined that rezoning the lots to mixed commercial will not create significant impact to the surrounding areas, which are zoned as rural village commercial and village residential.

To avoid additional spot zoning in the area, Dela Cruz said they recommend that additional lots from Chalan Pale Arnold or Isa Drive to the traffic light of San Vicente be rezoned as well. "We recommend that the board moves in favor to rezone that entire area," she said, reiterating that, based on their review of the application, this will not impact the surrounding properties or create traffic and noise.

Board treasurer Perry A. Inos Jr. moved to approve the rezoning with a recommendation for finishing Napu Inc.'s application to include the expansion of mixed commercial zone from NMC traffic light to the San Vicente traffic light.

Zoning chair Tatiana Babauta and members Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. and Kevin Guerrero also voted in favor.

Ayuyu then asked Dela Cruz what Napu Inc.'s options are if the Legislature denies their request to rezone. Dela Cruz said her understanding of the law is that in matters related to a request to rezone, the governing body is the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. She said SNILD has the sole authority to rezone and there has to be legislation.

The administrator said a lawmaker has to introduce a bill to rezone the area and, if the SNILD votes in favor, it goes to the governor for approval to become a law and officially rezone the area.

Dela Cruz said if the Legislature chooses not to approve the application, then it remains in its existing zoning district, which is village commercial.

"And in regard to this applicant, if it remains a village commercial [zone], the only cannabis use that's allowed in village commercial is the cannabis lounge," she said. "They [SNILD] can do spot zoning if they want. It's really their authority. They can approve to just rezone this area or rezone one area or take the board's recommendation," she added.

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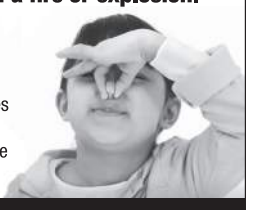

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CPA

From Page 1

Last April, CPA received $22,759,818 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, more popularly referred to as the CARES Act, that will be spread out across four years and is available at a 100% federal share, which means CPA does not need to provide a matching amount to tap the funds.

These funds are on top of grants awards to CPA from the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration, plus money awarded to CPA by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repair damage from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu.

CPA relies mainly on the revenue it generates from the CNMI's tourism industry and the airlines that service the CNMI. However, all international flights to the CNMI remain suspended and only United Airlines and interisland carrier Star Marianas Air fly into and out of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport right now.

According to CPA's ending report for fiscal year 2020—which CPA issued on Oct. 9, 2020—it is thanks largely to the CARES Act that CPA was able to use $4.1 million to pay off three years' worth of debt from fiscal year 2020 through 2022 (debt servicing). The remaining $18.6 million was used to fund operational expenses from fiscal years 2020 to 2021. Additionally, with the slow pace of operations going into fiscal years 2021 and 2022, CPA expects the CARES Act funds it got to last it until the end of fiscal year 2021.

On top of this federal funding, the CPA, through its board of directors, implemented several austerity measures in order for CPA to lessen operations, and it said it has been able to "actively manage" ongoing projects that include fixing the damage that were caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

These projects include demolishing the damaged commuter terminal and building a new and larger terminal, renovations and repairs to the tower, repairs to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training facility; repairs to the waterproofing the flat roof of the international terminal; replacement of metal flushing on the high roofs; replacement of all passenger loading bridges; replacement of damaged fencing; replacement of the rotating beacon; procurement of a disabled passenger lift for the safe boarding and de-boarding of passengers who require special assistance; and repairs for the operation and monitoring of the incinerator.

Among the austerity measures implemented include reducing employee hours, freezing all personnel actions and travel outside the CNMI, and implementing energy conservation measures. Additionally, last Aug. 30, CPA was able to give their tenants at both seaports and airports relief by providing them discounts and waivers on rental and aviation fees through December 2020.

As of September 2020, CPA had 181 employees at its three airports: 131 on Saipan, 23 on Rota, and 27 on Tinian. There are a total of 24 employees at the seaports: 19 on Saipan, two on Rota, and three on Tinian.

CPA said there were only a minimal amount of changes in personnel in fiscal year 2020.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DPW

From Page 1

DPW BSCD representative/inspector Gani Salazar issued the notice of violation last Oct. 9; IPI resident project director Jing Zhou received the notice that same day.

When asked for comments yesterday, Browne said the DPW violations are essentially clerical issues and that they have provided the documents to their third-party engineer for submission to DPW.

Tao Xing, IPI senior vice president of Public Affairs, separately said that, according to their construction management, the third-party inspectors and engineers of record have not submitted the special inspection reports and construction documents to DPW. Xing said the inspector and engineer had agreed to submit the documents during their meeting with DPW last Oct. 4 but have not done so yet. Xing said the notice gives IPI 10 working days to correct the violations.

According to the notice, IPI has failed to provide DPW with approved construction documents. BSCD said the company must submit shop drawings and revised plans for approval for building levels 3 to 14.

IPI also allegedly failed to select and obtain approval for an approved agency (special inspector). BSCD said IPI must submit the name of the company selected as its special inspector, and that the company must have a certified welder, electrical engineer, architect, and mechanical engineer on staff. BSCD said the special inspector company is subject to approval by the Building Safety officer.

IPI also allegedly failed to submit approved special inspector reports and tests from June 2019 to the present. BSCD said IPI must submit a special inspection report for September and October 2020.

BSCD said the notice serves as a warning to IPI, its contractor, or any person in charge of the project. "Failure to adhere with this notice will result in a complete stop work order and/or civil penalties," said BSCD in the notice.

IPI was given 10 days to correct the alleged violations.

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero in an interview clarified that their lawyer, assistant attorney general Michael Ernest, has contacted the lawyer handling DPW matters, who stated that there is no stop work order against IPI in relation to the notice.

FARM

From Page 1

This is a new program under DPL in an effort to help reduce the CNMI's reliance on imported food as well as allow local residents to maximize public lands. These subsistence farm plots are temporary and renewable every year.

The DPL team saw the community's response as a result of the global pandemic when backyard gardening became a popular pastime. This will allow DPL to collect a minimal fee for smaller plots of land, while encouraging individuals to grow their own food. These subsistence farm plots are intended for cultivation of food crops.

"DPL wants to encourage cultivation of local, sustainable food sources. With the heavy dependence of imported food sources in the community, especially during a time of a global COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to emphasize the benefits of subsistence farming," said a DPL statement from the Office of the Governor.

Subsistence farm plot permits are also on an annual basis. Applications are open to all eligible CNMI citizens.

The Application for Temporary Use of Public Land form for both agricultural grazing permits and subsistence farm plot permits can be found on our DPL website.

"Our goal is to maximize the use of public lands to benefit the community and it is also important during this time to increase food sustainability here on the island and reduce reliance on imported food," said DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo. "I'm thankful that with the hard work of the DPL Planning Division director Pat Rasa and surveyor III Jack Diaz and huge support of the administration, that we are able to do both."

The lots for subsistence farming were identified through DPL's Directive 7 initiative, which Concepcion-Teregeyo instituted on May 15, 2020. That directive requires the DPL divisions—Compliance, Planning, Homestead, Land Claims, and Real Estate—to review their land inventory listings and ensure that public lands that have not already been issued through a grant of public domain, grant of designation/assignment, homestead, lease, etc., are all accounted for. These properties remain on the land inventory for those of Northern Marianas descent and Directive 7 ensures that encroachers are charged a fee and are eventually evicted if they refuse to pay for the public land use.

Directive 7 is a diligent effort to achieve accountability for all public lands, the DPL statement said.

Homestead lots

Through Directive 7, DPL has identified 10 additional Saipan village homestead lots within existing subdivisions. The Planning Division was tasked with maximizing existing subdivisions such as Kagman areas, since water and power are already in place. The additional lots identified are corner lots that remain undesignated, for example, the corner curve along Kagman III.

Only people of Northern Marianas descent are eligible for Village homesteads; however a moratorium in accepting new applications has been in effect since 2006.

During the start of this administration in 2016, DPL had a total of 3,182 village homestead applicants for Saipan. Today there are currently 2,148 pending applicants. The decrease is attributed to the efforts of the Homestead Division in issuing out revoked idle homestead lots, as well as determining ineligible homestead applicants that have land registered under their name. Another Saipan homestead lottery is scheduled to be held this November.

For more information, visit the DPL website at www.dpl.gov.mp or like DPL on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DPLCNMI. DPL can also be reached at (670) 234-3751, via email at dpl@dpl.gov.mp, and is located on the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. ***(PR)***

CCC

From Page 1

filed by the CCC executive director before the board against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for alleged violations.

At the CCC board's monthly meeting held at the CCC conference room at Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, the commissioners authorized Deleon Guerrero and Dela Cruz to set other conditions required for that hearing.

CCC legal counsel Michael Ernest, who is prosecuting the complaints, said he and IPI general counsel Michael W. Dotts both asked Deleon Guerrero to recuse himself from one of the five complaints, primarily because he was the CCC executive director when it was filed.

Deleon Guerrero

Early this month, acting CCC executive director Andrew Yeom filed a complaint against IPI before the CCC board over IPI's failure to pay the $3.1 million annual regulatory fee that was due last Oct. 1. Yeom, through Ernest, filed two claims against IPI for violation of the Commonwealth Code and CCC regulation, a claim for breach of contract, and a claim for declaratory order.

Before that, on Sept. 24, Yeom, through Ernest, filed a complaint against IPI before the CCC board for allegedly not complying with the CCC order directing IPI to settle in full any payable or contribution owed a public or private entity and immediately pay any debt owed that is more than 89 days old.

Last Sept. 1, Yeom, through Ernest, also filed a complaint against IPI before the CCC board for allegedly failing to comply with the minimum capital requirements of CCC's order, among other issues.

Last August, Yeom, through Ernest, also filed a complaint against IPI over its failure to pay the $15.5 million annual casino license fee by the deadline last Aug. 12. Yeom filed the same four claims against IPI.

Last June, then CCC executive director Charlie Atalig, through Ernest, filed a complaint against IPI for allegedly failing to contribute $40 million in Community Benefit Fund money in 2018 and 2019 as required by the casino license agreement.

In an interview yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said the request for his recusal is understood and that he most probably disqualified himself from hearing that one complaint. "Because we're supposed to be an impartial panel," he said.

According to him, an administrative hearing requires the hearing officer to be appointed by the presiding officer or the chairman or it can be done by the entire board. Any action requiring the suspension or revocation of IPI's casino license would require the whole board sitting on that hearing, he added.

"So in that case, there's no need to appoint a hearing officer if we have to end up hearing again. That's kind of just a duplicate layer," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they decided that upcoming administrative hearing will be conducted by CCC board sitting as a whole. "Now, if one is disqualified or recused, the four will kick in, the vice chair will be the presiding officer and that's considered the CCC is hearing the case as a whole," he said.

The chairman stressed that the board has to be unanimous when it comes to suspension or revocation. "When one member decides not to [approve the move], then it will not result in a suspension or revocation," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said one of his first request will probably be for both parties to provide a list of potential witnesses and provide them an estimated time frame as to how many days they anticipate to complete their presentation.

This, he said, gives them an idea how long they are going to have the Rota and Tinian commissioners present at the hearing on Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero said the law and regulations require that IPI be given IPI due process and the right to be heard. "They have a right to respond and a right to request for a hearing," he said.

APA

From Page 2

required a 45% deposit to start work on all orders. On July 27, 2018, Asia Pacific wired $158,028 from its Bank of Guam account to Mercury GSE's account in Hawthorne, California.

APA said the $144,000 from the wire transfer was the security deposit for the two cargo loaders and the remaining $14,028 was payment for shipping costs for the Lantis Loader KL-206.

On May 20, 2019, Ferguson spoke with Mercury's CEO regarding the status of the two cargo loaders and learned that no work had been done on the two equipment and they had been, in fact, sold to a third party.

APA claims Mercury has failed to return the deposit to date, maintaining that no contract existed between the two parties.

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Est. Mileage: 6,954, Color:GRAY

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Est. Mileage: 11,988, Color: WHITE

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2019 NISSAN ROGUE S SPECIAL ED
STOCK # KW261973
FWD, 4-Cyl, 2.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT
Est. Mileage: 5,800, Color: BLUE

$27,995
2018 HONDA CR-V EX
STOCK #JL007946
2WD, 4-Cyl, Turbo, 1.5 L, Auto, CVT
Est. Mileage: 15,476, Color: WHITE

$28,995
2018 HONDA ACCORD TOURING
STOCK#JA084004
FWD, i-VTEC Turbo 1.5 L, AT 10 SPEED
Est. Mileage: 18,420, Color: GRAY

$32,688
2017 FORD F-150 S CAB 61/2 FT, XL
STOCK #HKC68427
2WD, V6, EcoBoost, TT, 2.7L, Automatic, 5-Spd
Est. Mileage: 15,895, Color: SILVER

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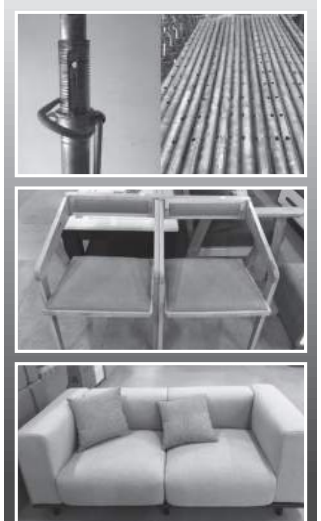
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Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **DIANA M. QUIITUGUA,** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 10-0261** **THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of September, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **12th day of November, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 326 R 14, (part of Lot 326 R 13, which was part of Lot 326 R 08, part Lot 316 R 02, part original Lot 316 R 01), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 326 R 00, the original of which recorded on June 2, 1998 as Document No. 98-1643 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.

4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by email with full name and complete signature to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Bidders are to contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of September, 2020.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ. (F0197)
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **ABRAHAM E. TAISACAN and LYDIA O. TAISACAN,** Defendant.	**Civil Action No. 13-0093** **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Decree and Judgment for Balance After Property Sale; Writ of Execution Re Judicial Sale; and Order in Aid of Judgment (hereinafter "Decree and Writ of Execution") entered in the above-titled action on March 10, 2020, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the balance of remaining due on the judgment to the Bank of Guam from Defendants Abraham E. Taisacan and Lydia O. Taisacan. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **November 6, 2020 at 10: am, at the Bank of Guam Rota Branch,** Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands premises and real properties, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said Decree and Writ of Execution, to wit:

1. Tract Parcel No. 22055-3, Rota, containing an area of 794 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3022/89, the original of which was recorded 26 May 1989 under File No. 89-1659 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.
2. Lot No. 002 R 03, Rota, containing an aera of 537 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 R 00, the original of which was registered 12 November 1971 as Document No. 1289 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale:

1. Public Sale: The action shall be open to the general public.

2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conduction the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the properties listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such properties are accepted;
b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for all of the properties listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the properties. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card, or other legally acceptable form of identification. A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days from the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Bank of Guam.

6. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the properties are being sold **"AS IS"** and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the mortgaged property to be sold at auction is available upon request. If necessary, a copy of the appraisal report will be provided to the Bank of Guam Manager for Rota, for on-island bidders.

Dated this 28th day of August 2020.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Man gets 1-year imprisonment for assault

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who allegedly assaulted a minor member of his household was sentenced to one year in prison.

Michael Lee Borja, who pleaded guilty to one count of assault and battery, was sentenced by Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for 30 days, for hitting a 12-year-old child.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Borja will serve his 30-day sentence every weekend starting on Oct. 16 to 18, then every weekend until Jan. 15 to 18, 2021.

Assistant public defender Vena Seelam, Borja's counsel, told the court that he (Borja) would take up residence on Saipan while serving the sentence.

After completing his sentence, Borja will be placed on two-year probation. Naraja also ordered Borja to pay $25 in court costs and a $250 fine.

Naraja scheduled a review hearing for Feb. 12, 2021, at 9am.

Borja was initially charged with child abuse, which is punishable by five years' imprisonment and $2,000 fine or both.

Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery represented the government at the sentencing hearing.

Borja, who resides on Tinian, was arrested back in February after he slapped the face of a 12-year-old child and punched the child's right arm. The child said Borja also pulled her ear and pushed her.

The child added that her father would become a "different person" every time he gets drunk and she did not feel safe around him and did not want to live with him anymore.

In a statement to the police, Borja denied hitting the child, but admitted that he was angry at the victim for closing and locking the door to her room while she was inside with a friend. As punishment, Borja said he spanked the child with a belt and grounded her.

Back in 2014, Borja was arrested for assault and battery when he allegedly pushed his girlfriend and poked her face with his finger when he found her outside their house talking to a neighbor. The girlfriend alleged that Borja pushed her twice, causing her to fall to the floor. Borja then repeatedly asked her what she was doing outside the house and then poked her face with his finger.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
The Nutrition Assistance Program recently received 6,000 masks donated by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation as part of the public-private partnership between the Torres-Palacios administration and TanHoldings. The masks were given away to NAP beneficiary households to protect against COVID-19.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PIC opens rooms and waterpark tomorrow

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Having a staycation weekend is a possibility once again at Pacific Island Club in San Antonio as they reopen room accommodations and a portion of its famous waterpark starting tomorrow.

These amenities were suspended due to COVID 19 concerns but, because of persistent local demand, PIC is once again making available to the community undisturbed fun with family and friends.

"We reopen the local-loved waterpark partially during the weekends—Saturdays and Sundays—beginning Oct. 24. In conjunction with the pool operations, the second and third floor rooms, Clubmate activities, and sports and beach activities will also open for local use," said Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung.

"The first pools to open are the Activity Pool and Siheky Splash Pool and we are offering local residents $25 for a day-pass for adults and $15 for children. With the day-pass, you can also sign up for beach lessons with Clubmates, such as windsurfing classes, water aerobics, and so on. …The fun is extended to PIC sport facilities and beach activities for free, including mini golf, tennis court, archery, kayaking, beach volleyball, etc.," Hung added.

A pool-pass with Magellan Bruch Combo is only $39 for adults and $24 for children. If you feel one day at the pools is not enough, PIC has another option. "For only $160 (one night and inclusive of tax), families and friends can avail of the 'Superior Room Package,' which is one night stay (inclusive of tax) and pool-pass for two days for up to four persons," Hung said.

"This local room promotion not only allows you to utilize all the available facilities at PIC, but also offers benefits like breakfast for two, 10am check-in and 3pm check-out, 20% discount at the Buoy Bar, 30% discount at The Magellan Brunch, and 50% discount at Seaside Grill Happy Hour. Room check-in is only available on Saturdays," Hung added.

Other places to explore at PIC are The Galley, the Seaside Grill, and Sunday brunch at The Magellan. Lunch at The Galley is open from Monday to Friday, 11am-2pm. Seaside Grill Sunset, which opened in August, is open from Thursday to Saturday, with an extended happy hour from 5pm to 9pm.

A wide array of international and local dishes is one of the reasons to have Sunday brunch at The Magellan. Aside from treating your taste buds to different flavors, the restaurant is family-friendly because it is spacious and brunch is reasonably priced. With local discount, the Sunday Family Brunch is only $30 for adults and $15 for child.

For reservations and inquiry, call (670) 234-7976 Ext. #2 from 8am to 5pm on Monday to Friday and Sunday and all day on Saturday.

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2020 Halloween Weeklong Sale
Saturday, October 24 to Saturday, October 31, 2020

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20# $12
US PORK SPARERIBS 20# $22
BAR-S REGULAR BACON 1# $4.50
ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz $1.50 ea.
SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44# $21

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50# $30
KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR $5 ea.
KAI VODKA 750ml $10 ea.
JOETEN HAND SANITIZER FLIP TOP 100ml $1 ea.
JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk $3

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MARBY LUMPIA WRAPPER BIG 20ct $1.19
CORN CUT /LB 75¢/lb.
BEST Y GREEN BEANS F/CUT FRZ 16z $2.19
SUNNY SELECT CHOPPED BROCOLLI 10Z 89¢
U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ/TRY $1.89
U.S. ORANGE CELLO 5#BAG $4.99
U.S. APPLE FUJI CELLO 5#/BG $4.99
TESSA TOILET PAPER 2PLY PER ROLL 2 for 99¢
FOLGERS BREAKFAST BLEND 25.4oz $11.19
GENERAL M CEREAL BOO BERRY 9.6z Everyday Low Price $2.99
GENERAL M CEREAL FRNKN BRRY 9.6z Everyday Low Price $2.99
GENERAL M COCONUT CHOCULA 10.4z Everyday Low Price $2.99 ea.

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MCS reopens school chapel with COVID-19 regulations

The Mount Carmel School chapel has been reopened with new features to ensure compliance with safety guidelines set by the COVID-19 Task force and Mount Carmel School's policies and procedures. MCS

The Mount Carmel School Chapel has been reopened with new features to ensure compliance with safety guidelines set by the COVID-19 Task Force and Mount Carmel School's policies and procedures.

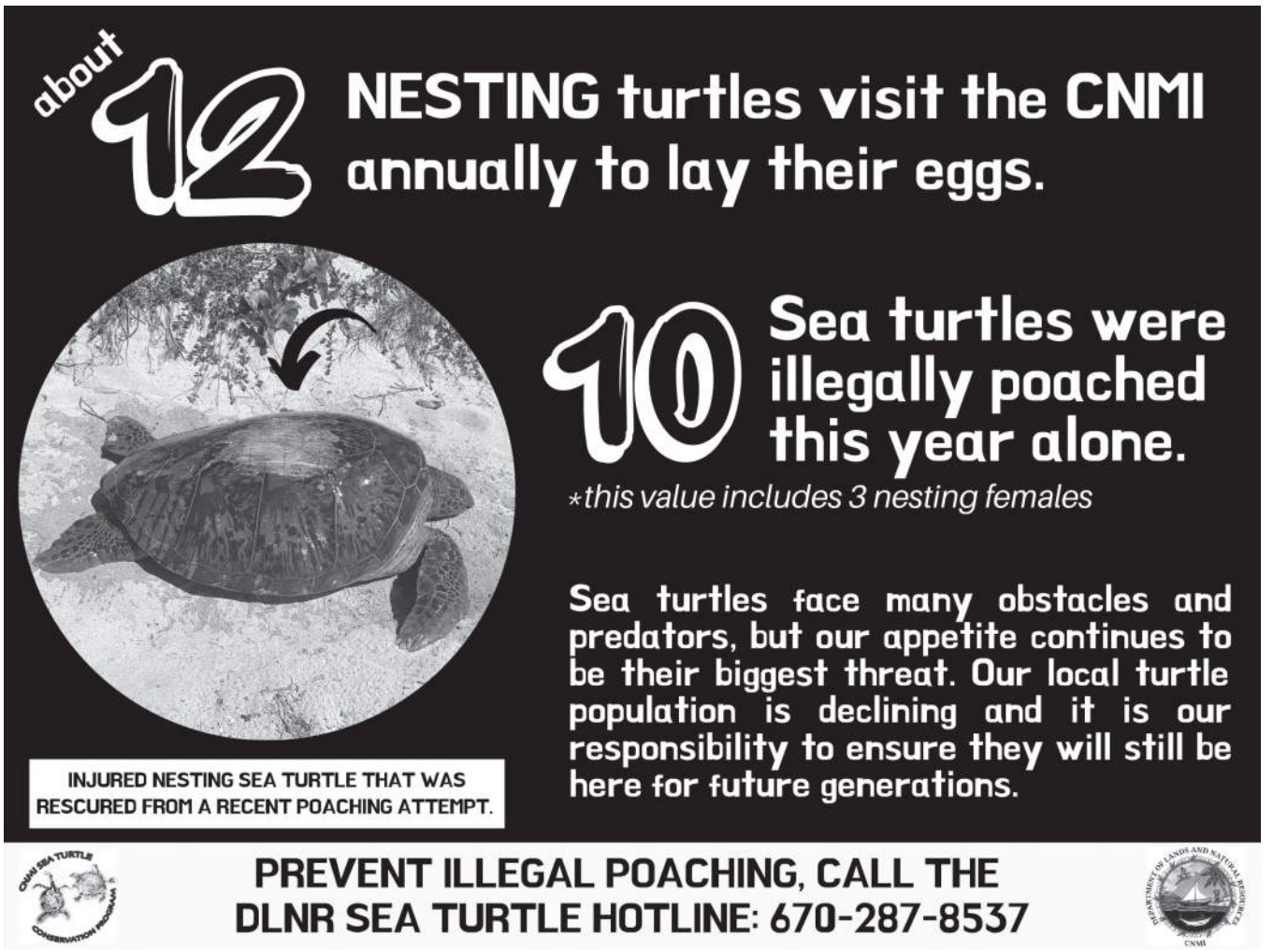
Students, faculty, and MCS community members are now welcome to use the chapel for their spiritual needs during these unprecedented times.

The initial blessing of the chapel was led by Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in 2016.

"We must consider the chapel as the center of the sacraments and spirituality at Mount Carmel School," said MCS campus minister Virgilio Abueme. "Due to the pandemic, how we practice our faith has changed, but we wanted to reestablish this space on campus where students and employees can turn to enrich their faith and connection with our Lord and savior."

"I am extremely grateful for the members of our campus ministry for making the school chapel available for our community again," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "While we can no longer hold Friday Masses or rosaries as an entire school body, having the school chapel available during these challenging times is essential."

The MCS chapel is open from 7am to 4pm Monday through Friday. Masks or face shields must be worn and temperatures will be checked accordingly. ***(MCS)***


about 12 NESTING turtles visit the CNMI annually to lay their eggs.
10 Sea turtles were illegally poached this year alone.
*this value includes 3 nesting females
Sea turtles face many obstacles and predators, but our appetite continues to be their biggest threat. Our local turtle population is declining and it is our responsibility to ensure they will still be here for future generations.
INJURED NESTING SEA TURTLE THAT WAS RESCURED FROM A RECENT POACHING ATTEMPT.
PREVENT ILLEGAL POACHING, CALL THE DLNR SEA TURTLE HOTLINE: 670-287-8537

Second virtual forum on the West Philippine Sea is set for Saturday

The National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea, a non-violent trans-global group that advocates for the preservation of Philippines' territorial sovereignty and integrity, would like to invite the public to its 2nd Virtual West Philippine Sea Forum on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, from 3pm to 5pm Manila time (5pm to 7pm Guam/Saipan time).

Dr. Celia Lamkin, NYMWPS founder and global chairperson, and the organizer of the virtual forum, said the theme of the forum is "Militarization of China's Artificial Islands in the West Philippine Sea: Its Environmental Effects in the Philippines and the Rest of the World."

Lamkin

The guest speakers are Dr. Jay Batongbacal, executive director, Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, and executive associate dean, University of the Philippines College of Law in UP Diliman, Philippines; and retired Gen. Emmanuel T. Bautista, 44th chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and former executive director of the National Task Force on the West Philippine Sea.

The panelists for the open forum are retired Capt. Carl O. Schuster, USN, professor, Diplomacy and Military Science Program of Hawaii Pacific University and Defense consultant, and former director of Operations, U.S. Pacific Command's Joint Intelligence Center in Honolulu; Capt. Caruso Mario Antonio Tagal and Capt. Edgar Diamante, former military pilots, Philippine Air Force; Viet Hoang, associate professor/law lecturer, Ho Chi Minh City University of Law and an expert on International Law and Law of the Sea; and Miku Lagarde, former professor and lecturer on international law.

The virtual forum via Zoom webinar will be streamed live at the NYMWPS FB page @NationalYouthMovementfortheWestPhilippinesSea.

To register, e-mail info@nymwps.net, visit NYMWPS website at www.nymwps.net or fill up the form in the link: https://forms.gle/suH7io1UJ6DwEKHD7.

Since there are only 100 people who can be accommodated at the Zoom webinar, you may watch the virtual forum at the NYMWPS FB page or at the NYMWPS YouTube channel at I Am NYMWPS.

The deadline for registration will be today, Oct. 23, 2020, at 3pm Manila time. If you have questions, include them when you register for the Zoom webinar. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of October 22, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Bridge Investment Group, LLC	09/29/2020 TMS-2020-X-082	Tinian Diamond Casino	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Certified Complete 10/16/2020
2. Office of Representative Jose I. Itibus, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	10/7/2020 SS-2021-001	Construction of Two Beach Pala-Pala Structures	Micro Beach, Saipan	Shoreline	ON HOLD* 10/16/2020
3. National Park Service	10/09/2020 SSm-2021-002	Storm Debris & Green Waste Removal	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 10/09/2020
4. Marianas Visitors Authority	10/15/2020 SSm-2021-003	Susupe Beach Park Enhancement Project	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 10/16/2020
5. YCO Corporation dba YCO True Value Hardware Stores	10/20/2020 SSm-2013-X-043-A1	Construction of True Value Hardware Garden Shed Extension	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

AMP now accepting submissions for its Veterans Day dedications

American Memorial Park would like to invite the community to join it in honoring veterans by sending personalized dedications before this Veterans Day. All those interested in participating may submit a picture of the thank you note, short videos of gratitude, or a photo of their handmade cards for a Veteran they know and love. We welcome creativity!

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, all dedications will be collected virtually. All video clips sent must be 5 seconds maximum. Email your cards, videos and messages to Ranger Renee Manibusan at reneeann_manibusan@nps.gov. The final day to turn in your cards and messages is Friday, Nov. 6, 2020, at 4pm. For the park to include and showcase a photo or a name that is submitted, a media release form must be filled out. This will be provided electronically after we receive your thank you message.

All submissions will be compiled into a video and shared across the park's social media platforms on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020.

To watch the finalized video and stay up to date on park activities and events, follow us on our social media platforms: Facebook: @americanmemorialpark or Instagram: @americanmemorialpark

For further information contact ranger Renee Manibusan or ranger Angel Cruz at (670) 234-7207 Ext. 2020 or email reneeann_manibusan@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

DPL to lift grazing permit moratorium for Saipan

The Department of Public Lands will lift the moratorium on the issuance of temporary Agricultural Grazing Permits for the island of Saipan and will be accepting applications in November 2020. AGPs for Saipan have been on moratorium since 2006. At that time, DPL had 47 AGP permittees.

The lifting of this moratorium will allow DPL to open idle public lands to individuals interested in using the land as a grazing area for their livestock. DPL currently has 41 AGP permits, which are scattered throughout the island, but mainly located in Marpi. DPL staff continue to identify more sites for livestock and cattle grazing around the island.

Grazing permits are temporary and are renewed annually provided that permittee is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit, including the AGP regulations. Allotted hectares per applicant will vary due to type of livestock. Any CNMI resident interested in raising livestock can avail of the agricultural grazing permit once the moratorium is lifted.

Review the DPL Temporary Occupancy Agreement regulations under NMIAC §145-70-210: http://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/admincode/T145/T145-70.pdf

For more information on the subsistence farm plots, visit the DPL website at www.dpl.gov.mp or like DPL on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DPLCNMI. DPL can also be reached at (670) 234-3751, via email at dpl@dpl.gov.mp, and is located on the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. ***(PR)***

SNAP-Ed's sidewalk gameboards promote physical activity in kids

A sidewalk of Captain H.B. Price Elementary School in Mangilao is now brightly painted with the University of Guam SNAP-Ed program's "5-2-1-Almost None," a gameboard that encourages children to be active.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Two elementary schools and one nonprofit social service organization are the recipients of new physical activity gameboards that promote active living as part of the "5-2-1-Almost None" campaign.

Led by the Guam Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) through the University of Guam's Cooperative Extension and Outreach unit, the campaign recommends that individuals:

- eat five servings of fruits and vegetables per day;
- have less than two hours of screen time per day;
- get at least one hour of physical activity per day; and
- drink almost no sugary drinks.

"Guam SNAP-Ed continues to strive to reach residents where they live, learn, work, shop, and play. The new gameboards are changes to the built environment that will support activity while maintaining physical distancing," said Tanisha F. Aflague, the SNAP-Ed coordinator who is also a registered dietitian with a doctorate in nutrition.

Volunteers from AmeriCorps UOG and Guam 4-H Youth Development program assisted in painting the gameboards on the sidewalks of Captain H.B. Price Elementary School, Liguan Elementary School, and Guma Serenidad.

A "5-2-1-Almost None" physical activity gameboard brightens the sidewalk at Guma Serenidad.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Over the next 12 months, these three 5-2-1-Almost None partners will be promoting the campaign's messages through newsletters, bulletin boards, posters, and other educational materials. In addition, they will be incorporating opportunities for healthy snacks at meetings, hosting physical activity events, encouraging "Smart Snacks" available in nearby stores, and role modeling the 5-2-1-Almost None behaviors.

Merizo Martyrs' Memorial School is next in line to receive a 5-2-1-Almost None physical activity gameboard.

"With more community partners adopting the 5-2-1-Almost None pledge, look out for the 5-2-1-Almost None messages in your community," Aflague said.

The gameboard funding and design was provided by SNAP-Ed, a separately funded educational arm of the SNAP program at the Department of Public Health and Social Services. SNAP-Ed teaches SNAP recipients in the community about nutritious food choices and how to best manage their food dollars.

For information about SNAP-Ed, visit the UOG Community Nutrition Education Program's (CNEP) Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/UOGCNEP/. ***(PR)***

BANK FROM HOME WITH
Mobile Check Deposit
Sarah Peters
TAMUNING, GUAM
1298
Date 03/25/2020
Pay to the Order of
John Cruz
$ 1000
One thousand
Dollars
Memo
Authorized Signature
000000000000000000005 1298
Follow
THESE SIMPLE STEPS*:
1 Open your BOG mobile app, go into Menu, click Transactions and select Deposit Check.
2 Sign the back of your check and write "For Mobile Deposit Only to Bank of Guam" before submitting your mobile deposit.
3 Select your deposit account and enter the amount.
4 Snap photos of the front and back of your check.
5 Submit deposit.
To get started, enroll in online banking and download the mobile app today.
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Bank of Guam
*Terms and conditions apply.
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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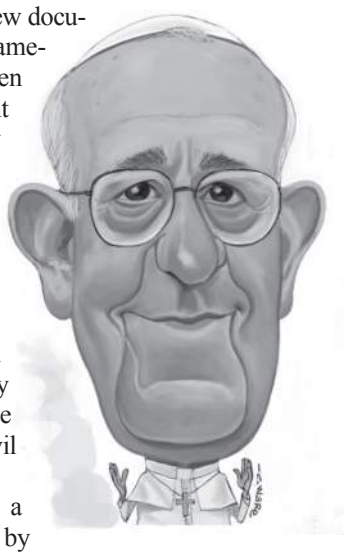
EDITORIAL

Pope Francis leads change for same-sex couples



Pope Francis appears ready to lead Catholics worldwide to a greater recognition of same-sex unions, declaring in a new documentary that same-sex couples are "children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out, or be made miserable because of it."

While stopping well short of endorsing actual same-sex marriage, the pope said that such couples should be legally recognized. "What we have to create is a civil union law," he said.

As modest as such a statement may seem by contemporary standards, it could be the start of a dramatic shift in that attitude of the Catholic Church toward same-sex couples.

In the U.S., same-sex marriage has been legal since 2015, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down bans on such unions in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges case.

Nevertheless, even with those legal protections, same-sex couples have suffered from discrimination. The Catholic Church has opposed same-sex marriage and Catholic catechism continues to teach that "homosexual persons are called to chastity," rather than engage in what the church considers "disordered acts."

Francis' remarks, in the documentary "Francesco," hopefully will pave the way for a new understanding and inclusion by the Catholic Church. Already, his comments are eliciting mixed reactions, with LGBT Catholic groups hailing it as historic, while conservative groups are downplaying the significance and calling for further clarity.

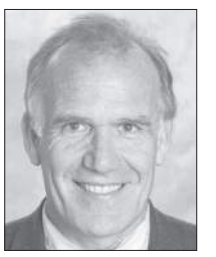
If Francis indeed intends to shift Catholic teaching and fully recognize the humanity and sexuality of same-sex couples, it will take more than comments in a documentary. It will take a full-tilt effort by the pontiff. Those forces within the church that have opposed such a shift remain strong and organized. But the change is needed now more than ever. Even in the U.S., same-sex couples are experiencing fresh alarm based on a recent dissent from Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas, and court nominee Amy Coney Barrett's background and elusiveness on the issue during her confirmation hearings.

Francis has seemed to make a clear statement of his intent, and it represents an affirming change for the Church.

(c) 2020 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

Why do you have a Biden and Harris sign in your yard?
Are you crazy? Show me where you see a Biden and Harris sign in my yard!!!
©2020 JAMBLE KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/IWA3

Will changes to American life become permanent?



By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, *from Basic Books. You can reach him by emailing authorvdh@gmail.com.*

The coronavirus, widespread quarantines, an unprecedented self-induced recession and unchecked rioting, looting and protesting—all in a presidential election year—are radically disrupting American habits and behavior.

Rents, home prices and office occupancy rates in major cities, especially on the two coasts, are dropping fast. Techies and young professionals have discovered that they can work from home without paying sky-high housing costs in order to be close to the office.

Those more fortunate wonder why they should get bogged down with commutes and urban traffic—or navigate city sidewalks amid homelessness, crime, racial tensions and urban unrest—when they can make as much money while staying distant in quieter landscapes.

Some react by moving to quieter, low-tax states such as Idaho, Tennessee or Utah. Others flee New York City or the Bay Area/Silicon Valley corridor to upstate New York or California's Central Valley. Who would have ever believed that housing prices in picturesque San Francisco would be falling while housing prices in pedestrian Sacramento and Fresno are soaring?

During the recent urban renaissance, young people had flocked to cities to be where the action was. Now, do they want to deactivate and find some independence and peace from the relentless chaos?

Worries about COVID-19 in high-density cities, and unreliable city services add to the unhappiness. Residents want less dependence on mass transit and elevator living. Constant human contact is seen more as risky than desirous.

Gun sales are at record highs. When some cities take steps to defund police and some soften bail laws, citizens quietly go to the local gun store and stock up on ammunition. Many of the people who have never before owned firearms are no longer clamoring for gun control. A "man's home" is now becoming his armed castle.

As a general rule, any business or activity that does not bother, judge or lecture Americans and instead allows them to work or relax in peace is preferred. That may explain why Zoom and Skype use is soaring while TV ratings for the woke NBA and NFL are down.

Why are Amazon and Walmart booming while smaller businesses are going broke? Largely because home delivery better serves those who are barricaded at home, terrified both of the virus and government reaction to it.

Family businesses are not vertically integrated. They have few cash reserves and no special insider exemptions from government officials. How ironic that in our quest to become safe and in control of our own destinies, we empower the anonymity of huge conglomerates and erode the viability of reliable, service-friendly, mom and pop stores.

For the first time in their careers, many teachers and professors are careful not to go off-topic and rant to their high school and college students. Their video streams are not only seen by captive classroom audiences but occasionally peeked in on by the parents and taxpayers who pay their salaries.

This is the first autumn in memory that a huge percentage of college students are staying home. And no one is sure of the ensuing consequences.

Will students revolt over borrowing money simply to watch lectures on their basement computers? Will they be less likely to vote in November when they are isolated at home, rather than congregating on campus near polling places and subject to constant peer pressures to vote—and to do so in predictable ways?

With college revenues dropping, will ambitious promises to hire more diversity administrators, build more self-segregated racial theme houses and increase campus social services be seen as just more costly overhead that shorts classroom teaching?

During the pandemic, government has become more intrusive and yet seemingly more impotent and incompetent. Pick a month and some government official issues yet more contradictory orders on mask wearing, social distancing and lockdowns—all to be soon reversed.

Taxes stayed high and yet urban services got worse. Increasingly, American city dwellers don't always count on the power going on when they flip the switch, or the bus or train always

See AMERICAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In one week, the elements that make life possible on Earth went haywire

By MARK SCHAPIRO
Los Angeles Times

Mark Schapiro is the author of The End of the Stationarity: Searching for the New Normal in the Age of Carbon Shock *and, most recently,* Seeds of Resistance: The Fight to Save Our Food Supply. *He is a lecturer at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. @schapiro*

Last month, in one week, the elements raged. Five natural phenomena went haywire at once—heat, fire, cold, wind and rain—in a dissonant September week that began with a temperature spike across the quiet streets and manicured yards of my hometown in the suburbs of Los Angeles.

When I grew up in the tract homes of Woodland Hills, carved out of the sagebrush-covered hills in the San Fernando Valley, we were familiar with the hot blaze of summer. There was a kind of quivering in the air when the temperature hit 95 or 100. We'd run through sprinklers and prance jerkily in our bare feet across the sizzling pavement. I recall the hot winds blowing thorny tumbleweeds into our backyard.

More than four decades later, on Sept. 6, Woodland Hills made history when it reported the hottest temperature ever recorded in Los Angeles County, an astounding 121 degrees—20 degrees warmer than those hot days I remember so well. At that temperature, the air doesn't just quiver; it sucks every ounce of moisture out of everything and leaves you out of breath. Thousands of people in my old neighborhood were left without power as the Southern California electrical system buckled under the strain of keeping cool.

And that was just the beginning of an apocalyptic week.

Three days after Woodland's Hills' unwelcome entry into the record books, I, like everyone in the San Francisco Bay Area, awakened to a sky without sunshine. Smoke from several Northern California megafires blocked the sun and left us in a filthy orange-brown twilight. Many people overslept, experiencing the same disorientation as that of the birds, whose chirps were absent that day because there was no sunrise and, thus, no morning. The air smelled like an upended ashtray. And that, of course, was nothing compared with the experiences of those who lost their homes and in some cases their lives in the fires.

Those fires, some still burning as I write this, exploded into the Worst Fire Season Ever, in the words of the LA Times. The week was just half-over.

On the other side of the Rocky Mountains, Colorado was hit with freakishly cold weather as the temperature dropped by 55 degrees from one day to the next and a foot of snow fell months before it was supposed to.

Meanwhile, in this race without a finish line, at the end of the week a tropical storm was gathering force in the Gulf of Mexico. It was the first in a spate of storms that exhausted the Roman alphabet for hurricane names earlier in the season than ever recorded.

Within days, Hurricane Sally unleashed violent winds and downpours that devastated parts of Alabama and the Florida panhandle, where power lines were downed and thousands left without electricity.

In a few short days, every element that makes life possible on Earth—the sun, the air, the water—went berserk.

What's going on?

■■■

In 2008, a team of scientists convened by the U.S. Geological Survey discovered that rain was no longer falling according to patterns dating back centuries. In scientific terms, the range of fluctuation in rainfall is called "stationarity"—the baseline from which all assumptions about water commence, most notably when it falls and how much. "Stationarity Is Dead" was the title of the study they published in the journal Science and subsequently expanded upon in research over another decade. That simple three-word phrase tells us everything about what is going on now: We can no longer predict the future based on patterns of the past.

Their findings were like an alarm going off in our crowded theater of a planet. Water is the key to all life. The same greenhouse gases that are enveloping the Earth in a blanket of rising temperatures are also severely disrupting the ebb and flow of condensation and evaporation in the waterways on land and in the atmospheric rivers above our heads that maintain the equilibrium of the planet.

The term "climate change" barely does justice to the magnitude of changes resulting from these disruptions. A better word might be climate Volatility, with a capital V. Disequilibrium reigns.

Which brings us back to that week in September.

The back story for the temperature in Woodland Hills is the same as the back story for the parched landscape that helped facilitate the fires. It is also the story behind the plunging temperature in the Rockies, driven partly by cold air in the atmosphere displaced by the unprecedented hot air mass over the West Coast. And it is the back story for the frequent hurricanes unleashing rain in massive drops rather than over multiple rainy days.

The consequences and costs of that devastating week are still being tallied. One thing is certain: It will cost millions of dollars to help families and communities rebuild from just one week alone, and billions more to respond to the impacts of disasters to come.

And who pays for that?

To answer that question, a scientist affiliated with the Climate Accountability Institute, Richard Heede, analyzed almost two centuries of atmospheric data and cross-referenced it with audits of global greenhouse gas emissions. Heede found that just 20 companies are responsible for more than a third of all greenhouse gases emitted between 1965 and 2017. Four of those companies are American—Chevron, ExxonMobil, Peabody Energy and ConocoPhillips.

Those four American fossil fuel companies alone are responsible for emitting at least 8.5%of all global emissions over the past 52 years. They are the back story to the back story.

Fire and rain have always marked humans' life on Earth but never before to the extremes we're recording now, according to a just-released report from the United Nations, as well as innumerable other sources over the last decade. The heat in my hometown, the intensity of the fire in your hometown, the sudden early arrival of cold and snow, the torrential storms in so many hometowns, were sculpted by the hands of man (as it happens, there are no female CEOs in any of the top 20 global oil companies). The companies that contributed to this devastation are known, they have publicly identifiable executives and board members, and they have vast resources.

It's time for them to pay for their share of the unnatural disasters and mayhem unleashed upon Earth, for the contribution of fossil fuels to the catastrophes of that disastrous September week, not to mention of the record-breaking weeks yet to come.

Three years later, hundreds of migrant families remain separated

By SCOTT MARTELLE
Los Angeles Times

Scott Martelle, a veteran journalist and author of six history books, is a member of The Los Angeles Times *editorial board.*

Lawyers tasked with trying to undo some of the worst damage from the Trump administration's astoundingly inhumane practice of separating asylum-seeking migrant families told a U.S. district court Tuesday that they have been unable to track down the parents of 545 children who, three years after those separations, remain in the U.S. in foster homes or with guardians.

Most of the parents, the lawyers believe, were deported.

Who exactly ordered up this despicable practice remains uncertain, but it clearly involved top administration officials, including then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions and White House aide Stephen Miller, who has been largely responsible for Trump's hard-line immigration policy decisions. NBC News reported in August that, at the 2018 Cabinet meeting when the policy was discussed and approved, the fundamental immorality of the policy was never raised.

Legal challenges by the American Civil Liberties Union and immigrant rights groups led to a court order halting the separations, and Trump, under fire from the left and the right, made a showy display of signing an order ending the practice.

Yet it continued anyway as immigration agents began separating families under the pretext of saving the children from unsafe parents or guardians, a decision that often hinged on long-ago convictions for crimes — such as driving under the influence — that were not indicators of whether the parent posed a risk to a child. In some cases, advocates have reported, families were separated based on agents' suspicions over whether the adult was truly a parent or guardian, with no due process.

The policy began with a 2017 pilot project primarily along the Texas border, under which as many as 1,500 families were separated. U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw, based in San Diego, appointed the ACLU and other immigrant rights law firms to try to locate the parents, with the cooperation of the federal government.

But the government began the separations without creating a database to keep track of the parent-child relationships or where the parents wound up, which forced the immigrant rights legal teams to try to find many parents in remote areas of Central America, often among people who speak rare languages.

Many of the families fled those areas in the first place out of fear of violence and often under direct threats, and so have gone into hiding or have resettled in places where they might not be recognized by the gangs they fled.

And given the ongoing drought and agricultural crisis across the Central American highlands, many likely found no reason to return home at all. Some may well be dead. And the COVID-19 pandemic has made a difficult job even tougher.

The most disturbing aspect of this ongoing tragedy is that it was brought about intentionally by the Trump administration, whose representatives cared so little about the human implications of their actions that they didn't bother to keep track of which families it was destroying. All in service to a hard-line, anti-immigrant set of policies that, at the most generous, ignores U.S. and international laws and treaties governing how asylum seekers must be treated.

History will not judge this administration lightly for a host of reasons. But the emotional torture intentionally inflicted on migrant children and their families stands alone as an indictment of Trump's fundamental inhumanity.

And it indicts, too, those who urged on these practices and who took part in them.

AMERICAN

From Page 10

showing up, or the police always answering 911 calls.

We still do not know the full consequences of these radical changes in American life, especially whether they will continue after the COVID-19 virus abates and quarantines end.

The cultural currents are often contradictory. They defy easy political analysis and seem at times counterintuitive.

But there is one historical constant.

When institutions and politicians cannot accommodate radically changed circumstances, people will no longer value institutions and politicians. In their place, citizens will seek to ensure their own livelihoods, leisure and safety in ways that are more reliable and affordable—with their circumstances in their own hands rather than in those of distant others.

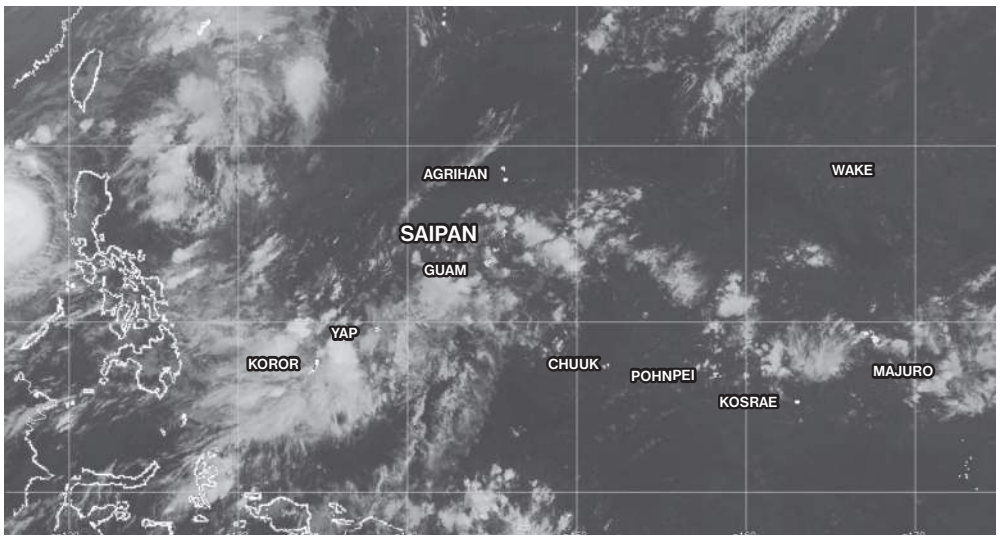
And their adjustments won't always be calm or polite.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming northeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 78°	88° 78°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:16 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite this morning shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Guam and Saipan, moving northward. Guam had 0.86 inches of rain this morning. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet composed mainly of east-northeast swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	89° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:25 PM	11:55 PM	-
Saturday	1:16 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:50 AM	2:02 PM
Monday	-	1:43 AM	2:43 PM
Tuesday	-	2:33 AM	3:21 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	63° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
London	Showers	63° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	100° / 72°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 54°
Miami	Showers	85° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 67°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Paris	Showers	57° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Rome	Cloudy	68° / 48°
Salem	Showers	72° / 52°
San Francisco	Sunny	75° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 66°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:45 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.19
2:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
8:20 PM	LOW TIDE	1.21
-	-	-

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.8-magnitude quake in Guam

At 11:06pm on Oct. 21, 2020, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred 135 kilometers southwest of Merizo in Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 8:41am on Oct. 22, 2020, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.815°N 147.251°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Scheduled water service interruption today

There will be a scheduled water service interruption today, Oct. 23, 2020, from 8am to 4pm for the entire Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan and Obyan areas. This will allow the contractor of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Hong Ye Construction, to cut and cap the existing 4-inch PVC pipe that connects the KG-131 well and the transmission line to Kagman I for a more reliable water system. Project will take place in the corner of Chacha Road, Kagman. Restoration of water service will resume soon after. This work is part of CUC's Kagman Waterline and Booster Rehabilitation Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior. For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, CUC advises the general public to exercise caution or take alternative routes when traveling through the area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Drivers written testing center closed half-day today and all day on Monday

Today, Oct. 23, 2020, the drivers written testing center will be closed from 7:30am through 12:30pm for staff training and will resume services at 1pm. It will be closed all day on Monday, Oct. 26, 2020, for continued training and certification. Drivers written testing will resume the following day on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, at 7:30am. All other services, including on-road driving tests, vehicle registration, boat registration, and driver's license renewal are not affected. For more information regarding the driver's written, call the BMV office at 664-9069. ***(PR)***

OVR sets public outreach

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be conducting business and employer engagements regarding various programs offered by OVR for clients/consumers throughout the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These may include private and public sectors, government agencies, residential visits and religious entities (churches). If any potential clients/consumers and/or employers are interested or would like to know more about our programs, contact our office at (670) 322-6537/38/39 or (670) 287-6609 and/or email maryann@ovrgov.net. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR PORT OF SAIPAN SEAPLANE RAMP MAINTENANCE DREDGING Project No. CPA-SS-001-21

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for design services for maintenance dredging of the north and south seaplane ramps and Echo Dock at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-21.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available upon request to CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, Ms. Wendi Prater, at wprater@cnmiports.com. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal, or faxed to (670) 234-5962. Questions should be submitted by no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 26, 2020, Chamorro Standard Time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: October 7, 2020

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-027

ISLEY WATER TANK FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from contractors for the replacement of the existing Isley Water Tank security fence in Isley Field, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-027** ***Isley Water Tank Fence Replacement Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 27, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 9, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Yvonne Ogumoro, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer at email yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician, Senior at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-003

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR WEST SAN JOSE HOMESTEAD (TINIAN) WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes marked *"CUC-RFP-21-003, A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 9, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Saipan Toys LLC opens in Gualo Rai

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
Saipan Toys is located across the new U.S. Courthouse and beside Best Car Wash in Gualo Rai.

Belying its name, Saipan Toys, LLC along Middle Road in Gualo Rai doesn't sell toys—at least the kind that children play with.

The recently opened store actually retails toys for the big boys like sportscars, heavy duty pickup trucks, high-performance motorcycles and dirt bikes, and even smart TVs.

Owner Scott Malin said he created Saipan Toys because he's simply a connoisseur of "big boys toys" as he himself described them. "I've always enjoyed and been a collector of such things."

He admits that opening a new store—much more a store that sells big-ticket items—is always a risk during hard times. That's why many had misgivings when he set up Saipan Toys especially in the middle of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Malin, however, is optimistic. "It's definitely not easy, but it should be good when things pick back up."

For those interested, Saipan Toys also does financing for small items ($10,000 or less) through Express Financial.

When it comes to abiding by the guidelines of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, he said Saipan Toys strictly follows them as customers and staff are required to always have face masks on, hand sanitizers are available at the entrance, there are traffic directions inside and signs on the door, and there are clearly marked doors for going inside and outside.

Malin said he appreciates the community's support in the short time Saipan Toys has been open. "We've gotten very good reception so far. We've had a wide range of customers. Thank you for all the support we have received so far. We also have container space available if any needs to bring any cargo in from the [United] States," he said.

Saipan Toys is located across the new U.S. Courthouse and beside Best Car Wash in Gualo Rai. It's open Monday-Saturday from 10am to 6pm. For more information, call 788-3381.

82-inch Samsung smart TVs. MARK RABAGO

MARK RABAGO
A 1979 Jeep Wrangler and Harley Davidson and Ninja high-powered motorbikes adorn its showroom.

OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma to plead to three criminal charges

WASHINGTON (AP)—Drugmaker Purdue Pharma, the company behind the powerful prescription painkiller OxyContin that experts say helped touch off an opioid epidemic, will plead guilty to federal criminal charges as part of a settlement of more than $8 billion, the Justice Department announced Wednesday.

The deal does not release any of the company's executives or owners—members of the wealthy Sackler family—from criminal liability, and a criminal investigation is ongoing. Family members said they acted "ethically and lawfully," but some state attorneys general said the agreement fails to hold the Sacklers accountable.

The company will plead guilty to three counts, including conspiracy to defraud the United States and violating federal anti-kickback laws, the officials said, and the agreement will be detailed in a bankruptcy court filing in federal court.

The Sacklers will lose all control over their company, a move already in the works, and Purdue will become a public benefit company, meaning it will be governed by a trust that has to balance the trust's interests against those of the American public and public health, officials said.

The settlement is the highest-profile display yet of the federal government seeking to hold a major drugmaker responsible for an opioid addiction and overdose crisis linked to more than 470,000 deaths in the country since 2000.

It comes less than two weeks before a presidential election where the opioid epidemic has taken a political back seat to the coronavirus pandemic and other issues, and gives President Donald Trump's administration an example of action on the addiction crisis, which he promised early on in his term.

Ed Bisch, who lost his 18-year-old son to an overdose nearly 20 years ago, said he wants to see people associated with Purdue prosecuted and was glad the Sackler family wasn't granted immunity.

He blames the company and Sacklers for thousands for deaths. "If it was sold for severe pain only from the beginning, none of this would have happened," said Bisch, who now lives in Westampton, New Jersey. "But they got greedy."

Brooke Feldman, a 39-year-old Philadelphia resident who is in recovery from opioid use disorder and is a social worker, said she is glad to see Purdue admit wrongdoing. She said the company had acted for years as "a drug cartel."

Democratic attorneys general criticized the agreement as a "mere mirage" of justice for victims.

"The federal government had the power here to put the Sacklers in jail, and they didn't," Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said in a statement. "Instead, they took fines and penalties that Purdue likely will never fully pay."

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Cannabis Marianas Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Cannabis Marianas Corporation is proposing to construct a 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 113 E 02 in Kagman village. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: November 6, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club - Charley's Cabaret, San Antonio, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 5th, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Marianas Hemp Farms dba Marianas Hemp Retail

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms dba Marianas Hemp Retail is proposing renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 D 64 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: November 6, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club - Charley's Cabaret, San Antonio, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 5th, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Marianas Hemp Farms dba Marianas Hemp Lounge

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms dba Marianas Hemp Lounge is proposing renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 D 64 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: November 6, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Pacific Islands Club - Charley's Cabaret, San Antonio, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, November 5th, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

Nation

Dems to boycott Barrett vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats are set to boycott voting on Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett at the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, but there is little they can do to prevent Republicans from rushing to confirm President Donald Trump's pick before Election Day.

The Judiciary Committee, which is controlled by Republicans, is expected to change the rules if necessary to recommend Barrett's nomination to the full Senate. Senators are planning a rare weekend session to secure her confirmation on Monday.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer announced the planned boycott in a speech late Wednesday on the Senate floor.

"We should not be moving forward on this nomination," he said, calling Barrett's views "so far out of the mainstream." No Supreme Court nominee has ever been confirmed so close to a presidential election.

He immediately forced a vote to recess the Senate until after the Nov. 3 election, but it failed. "These are all such violations of American norms, values, decency and honor," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell set Barrett's confirmation on a fast-track following the death last month of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. If confirmed Monday, Barrett could be seated on the high court that same day.

With Republicans holding a 53-47 majority in the Senate, Trump's pick for the court is almost certain to be confirmed. Boycotting Thursday's committee hearing won't stop the process, but could potentially force Republicans on the panel to alter the rules to keep the confirmation on track.

Barrett

"Judge Barrett deserves a vote and she will receive a vote," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the committee chairman, in a statement. "Barrett deserves to be on the Supreme Court and she will be confirmed."

Committee rules say at least two members of the minority party, Democrats, would need to be present to constitute a quorum for doing business. Graham made no mention of the process ahead, if Democrats fail to show up.

But Mike Davis, a former top aide on the panel who now advises Senate Republicans, said the committee was well within its normal practice to hold the vote, even if Democrats skip it. He said the longstanding practice has been to allow business to go forward if all members of the majority, Republicans, attend.

Two Republican senators on the panel, Mike Lee and Thom Tillis, tested positive for COVID-19 after attending the Rose Garden event where Trump announced Barrett as his nominee. The panel established remote operations during the coronavirus pandemic. Those two senators have since returned to in-person sessions, saying their doctors cleared them from quarantine.

Two other Republicans, Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski, have objected to the quick vote, but they are not on the panel. Even if they oppose Barrett's confirmation, Republicans have the votes to push ahead. No Senate Democrats are expected to support Barrett's confirmation.

Barrett, a 48-year-old appellate court judge who has spoken out against abortion and a court ruling on the Affordable Care Act, is on track to lock in a 6-3 conservative majority on the high court for years to come.

Census says deadline can be reached with tech, nonstop work

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Technology and working around the clock should allow the U.S. Census Bureau to crunch numbers from the 2020 census in half the time originally allotted, but if the work isn't completed by a year-end deadline, the statistical agency will take the extra time needed to finish it, bureau officials said Wednesday.

"Our plan right now is if we need more time to fix a problem that comes up, we are taking it," Al Fontenot, an associate director for decennial census programs, said during a news conference by telephone. "We are maintaining flexibility to get the job done in a quality way."

Advocacy groups are concerned that the Census Bureau is rushing the data-processing phase of the once-a-decade census in order to meet a Dec. 31 deadline for turning in numbers used for divvying up congressional seats by states—a process known as apportionment. The census also determines the distribution of $1.5 trillion in federal spending each year.

"The bureau urgently needs more time to process the data," said Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Bureau statisticians only started crunching the numbers last week after the Supreme Court ruled the Trump administration could stop the head count of every U.S. resident, leaving them only two and a half months to process apportionment data collected from the nation's households.

The Census Bureau originally planned to have five months for processing the apportionment data under a plan that was developed in response to the pandemic. Under that plan, field operations would have been extended through Oct. 31, and data processing of the apportionment numbers would have continued through April 2021.

But the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, decided to end the count early so that data processing would be finished by Dec. 31. That came after requests to extend the deadlines passed the Democratic-controlled House but didn't go anywhere in the GOP-controlled House.

Sticking to a Dec, 31 deadline would allow the Trump administration to control the data processing of the apportionment numbers no matter who wins the presidential election next month. That would give the Commerce Department the opportunity to implement an order from President Donald Trump attempting to exclude people in the country illegally from the apportionment count, according to civil rights groups and local government sued the Trump administration over the census timetable.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Friday, November 06, 2020 I 5:00 PM
Pacific Islands Club I Charleys Cabaret
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/16/2020 Zoning Board Special Meeting and 10/20/2020 Zoning Board Regular Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3279** – Cannabis Marianas Corporation proposes to construct a 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 113 E 02 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Rural district.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3131** – Marianas Hemp Farms dba Marianas Hemp Retail proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 001 D 64 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3132** – Marianas Hemp Farms dba Marianas Hemp Lounge proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 001 D 64 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

C. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

D. Miscellaneous
1. Next Meeting
2. Other Matters

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMDdXdFlQRTQ4UkhFRjViUT09
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Nov06

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ21-GOV-003

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance (PA) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the Supply of Materials, Labor & Equipment for the Repairs/Renovation and/or New Construction of Public Facilities as a result of Typhoon Mangkut and Yutu (FEMA DR-4396-MP and FEMA DR-4404-MP) for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package and scope of work will be available on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at the Governor's Public Assistance Office, MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan. **A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 10:00am at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP**. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Mr. Patrick Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, facsimile to (670) 664-2417 or email pguerrero@pa.gov.mp no later than 4 p.m., ChST, November 6, 2020.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications & Experience in Construction including Firm's Profile	30%
2. Work load and resources to accomplish work	30%
3. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	15%
4. Project and/or Management Approach	15%
5. Visual examples of previous works	10%

Performance time for completion of the Repair/Renovation and/or New Construction will be dependent on the type of project. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top Five (5) ranked firms. The Public Assistance Office may elect to retain all of the top 5 firms. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Depending on the number of projects, the PA Office will request each firm to submit a price quotation for these projects, and selection will be based on the lowest cost.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-003, Construction Services** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, November 16, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI shall obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent form that is provided in this RFQ. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, November 16, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. Note that failure to submit this Notice of Intent Form will be cause for rejection of proposal (This only applies for proposers located outside of the CNMI). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, November 16, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than November 25, 2020. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Asia

PH allows foreign travel to resume

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines on Wednesday lifted a ban on non-essential foreign trips by Filipinos, but the immigration bureau said the move did not immediately spark large numbers of departures for tourism and leisure.

The government has gradually eased travel restrictions to bolster the economy, which slipped into recession in the second quarter following months of lockdown and quarantine to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Travelers to other countries are required to show confirmed roundtrip tickets, travel and health insurance, a declaration acknowledging the risks of travel and trip delays, and a medical test within 24 hours of departure that clears them of COVID-19.

Aside from tedious predeparture requirements, many countries still restrict the entry of travelers from nations with high number of coronavirus infections, including the Philippines. The Department of Health has reported more than 360,000 confirmed cases, the second-highest in Southeast Asia, with at least 6,690 deaths.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi says laxity could lead to a new surge in infections, as India reported 54,044 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, taking the overall tally past 7.6 million. The Health Ministry on Wednesday also reported 717 additional deaths for a total of 115,914. Deaths and new cases per day have been declining in India since last month, but Modi is urging people to continue wearing masks and observing social distancing until a vaccine is available. Health officials have warned about the potential for the virus to spread during the ongoing religious festival season that includes huge gatherings in temples and shopping districts.

■ Australian authorities say they're treating a COVID-19 case in the city of Melbourne as a rare reinfection. The only coronavirus case reported in the former hot spot of Victoria state on Tuesday had also tested positive in July. Victoria Premier Dan Andrews said Wednesday an expert panel's decision to classify the case as a reinfection reflected "an abundance of caution" rather than conclusive evidence. Melbourne has been in lockdown since early July, but restrictions in Australia's second-largest city are easing this week as daily infection tallies remain low. Victoria reported three new cases on Wednesday. The state's second wave peaked at 725 new infections in a day in early August.

■ Eighteen fishing crewmen who last week flew to New Zealand from Moscow have tested positive for the coronavirus, underscoring the difficulty New Zealand faces in trying to import needed workers while remaining virtually virus free. A total of 235 crew from Russia and Ukraine were on the flight chartered by three fishing companies. Before leaving Moscow, they were supposed to have self-isolated for two weeks and tested negative for the virus. All remain in quarantine at a Christchurch hotel.

AP

A worker wearing protective mask to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus pulls a plastic container full of debris washed ashore after tropical storm Saudel, locally called Pepito, hit the country on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020 in Manila, Philippines.

Japan PM pushes closer SE Asia ties in China counter

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Japan's new prime minister pledged Wednesday to help Southeast Asian nations increase their maritime security capabilities, as he used his first overseas trip as leader to push his country's vision for greater international cooperation to counter China's influence in the region.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, speaking in the Indonesian capital, also took a thinly veiled dig at China's activities in the disputed South China Sea, where it has built and militarized manmade islands and is pressing its claim to virtually all of the sea's key fisheries and waterways.

A number of Southeast Asian nations dispute China's claims to the waters.

"In the Indo-Pacific that connects maritime transport between Japan and ASEAN, we can achieve the peace and prosperity only by fully implementing rule of law that allows anyone freedom and openness," Suga told a news conference in Jakarta. ASEAN is the 11-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"But in the South China Sea, opposite actions are being taken and we are closely watching with grave concern," Suga said. "Japan opposes to any action that would increase tensions in the South China Sea."

Suga reiterated that all parties involved in the South China Sea disputes must make peaceful efforts toward resolution, not by force or threat.

Suga pledged to strengthen bilateral defense ties with Southeast Asian nations and promised further assistance to step up their maritime policing, including training and equipment transfer from the Japanese Coast Guard.

Suga was wrapping up his visit to Indonesia, the second leg of his four-day tour that started from Vietnam. Suga chose Vietnam and Indonesia for his first overseas trip since succeeding Shinzo Abe as prime minister last month in order to demonstrate the region's importance to Japan.

Japan considers China's growing military activity to be a security threat and its defense papers have accused China of unilaterally changing the status quo in the South China Sea with its actions there. Japan is also concerned about China's claim to the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, called Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea.

In both Indonesia and Vietnam, Suga has stressed that Southeast Asian countries are key to achieving what Japan terms a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," a vision of economic and security cooperation between nations that was started by Abe as a way to counter China's growing might and influence.

Suga denied China's criticism that the initiative is an attempt to create a NATO in Asia.

"Achieving a rule-based free and open Indo-Pacific in this region contributes to the peace and prosperity for the entire world," Suga said. The plan is not intended for special membership but "we can cooperate with any country that shares the view," he added.

Suga agreed with Indonesian President Joko Widodo to work toward holding a fresh round of foreign and defense ministerial talks and to speed up ongoing negotiations for defense equipment and technology transfer. Suga signed a defense equipment export agreement with Vietnam on that leg of his trip.

Japan has defense equipment transfer deals with 11 other countries, including the U.S., Britain, the Philippines and Malaysia, and is negotiating with Thailand.

Japan eased its arms exports ban in 2014 and has since been promoting exports of defense equipment.

Thai protesters march in show of strength against government

BANGKOK (AP)—Student-led protesters in Thailand defiantly marched to the streets near the prime minister's office on Wednesday night, repeating their demand that he step down even as he urged them to let Parliament deal with their calls for democratic reforms.

The demonstrators pushed through lines of police who, though equipped with riot gear and standing behind portable metal barriers and barbed wire, did not put up a serious fight. Police had pushed the protesters out of the same area just a week earlier.

Protesters handed government representatives what they said was a resignation form for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to sign, and also demanded freedom for their comrades arrested in connection with earlier protests.

If their demands were not met, they said, they would return in three days. They then dispersed peacefully.

The protesters' long-term demands also include a more democratic constitution and reforms to the monarchy. The implicit criticism of the royal institution has stirred controversy because it traditionally has been treated as sacrosanct and a pillar of national identity.

In a speech televised Wednesday evening, Prayuth offered a concession to protesters, saying he would promptly lift the state of emergency he declared in Bangkok last week "if there are no violent incidents." Withdrawing the emergency decree has been another of the protesters' demands.

The state of emergency was declared to allow police to break up the group's gathering outside the prime minister's office last Thursday before dawn.

Earlier Wednesday, a group of university students went to a Bangkok court to seek to have the emergency decree revoked on the grounds that it abridged freedom of assembly. The court is expected to rule later this week.

Prayuth, in his speech broadcast at about the same time the protesters marched, pleaded with his countrymen to resolve their political differences through Parliament.

"The only way to a lasting solution for all sides that is fair for those on the streets as well as for the many millions who choose not to go on the streets is to discuss and resolve these differences through the parliamentary process," he said, according to an official English-language text of his remarks.

The government on Tuesday approved a request to recall Parliament for a special session on Oct. 26-27 to deal with the political pressures from the protests.

World

Francis becomes 1st pope to endorse same-sex civil unions

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis became the first pontiff to endorse same-sex civil unions in comments for a documentary that premiered Wednesday, sparking cheers from gay Catholics and demands for clarification from conservatives, given the Vatican's official teaching on the issue.

The papal thumbs-up came midway through the feature-length documentary "Francesco," which premiered at the Rome Film Festival. The film, which features fresh interviews with the pope, delves into issues Francis cares about most, including the environment, poverty, migration, racial and income inequality, and the people most affected by discrimination.

"Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God," Francis said. "You can't kick someone out of a family, nor make their life miserable for this. What we have to have is a civil union law; that way they are legally covered."

While serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Francis endorsed civil unions for gay couples as an alternative to same-sex marriages. However, he had never come out publicly in favor of civil unions as pope, and no pontiff before him had, either.

AP

Pope Francis, center, makes the sign of the cross during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020.

The Rev. James Martin, a Jesuit who has sought to build bridges with gay Catholics, praised the comments as "a major step forward in the church's support for LGBT people."

"The pope's speaking positively about civil unions also sends a strong message to places where the church has opposed such laws," Martin said in a statement.

However, conservative Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island, called for clarification. "The pope's statement clearly contradicts what has been the long-standing teaching of the church about same-sex unions," he said in a statement. "The church cannot support the acceptance of objectively immoral relationships."

And Ed Mechmann, director of public policy at the Archdiocese of New York, said in a blog post that the pope had simply "made a serious mistake."

Catholic teaching holds that gay people must be treated with dignity and respect but that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered." A 2003 document from the Vatican's doctrine office stated the church's respect for gay people "cannot lead in any way to approval of homosexual behavior or to legal recognition of homosexual unions."

Doing so, the Vatican reasoned, would not only condone "deviant behavior," but create an equivalence to marriage, which the church holds is an indissoluble union between man and woman.

That document was signed by the then-prefect of the office, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI and Francis' predecessor.

Later Wednesday, questions arose about when Francis first made the remarks. The scene of his interview is identical to one from 2019 with Mexican broadcaster Televisa, but his comments about the need for legal protections for civil unions apparently never aired until the documentary.

Director Evgeny Afineevsky, who is gay, expressed surprise after the premiere that the pope's comments had created such a firestorm, saying Francis wasn't trying to change doctrine but was merely expressing his belief gay people should enjoy the same rights as heterosexuals. He insisted the pope made the comments to him directly, through a translator, but declined to say when.

"The world needs positivity right now, the world needs to care about climate change, care about refugees and migration, borders, walls, family separation," Afineevsky said, urging attention to the main issues covered by the film.

One main character in the documentary is Juan Carlos Cruz, the Chilean survivor of clergy sexual abuse whom Francis initially discredited during a 2018 visit to Chile.

Cruz, who is gay, said that during his first meetings with the pope in May 2018 after they patched things up, Francis assured him that God made Cruz gay. Cruz tells his own story throughout the film, chronicling both Francis' evolution on understanding sexual abuse as well as to document the pope's views on gay people.

Macron says beheaded teacher was victim of stupidity, hate

PARIS (AP)—President Emmanuel Macron promised Wednesday that France will not renounce freedoms taught by a schoolteacher beheaded by a radical Islamist last week after showing caricatures of the prophet of Islam to his class.

At a national memorial at the Sorbonne University in central Paris, Macron praised history teacher Samuel Paty as the "face of the Republic" who "believed in knowledge."

Paty, 47, was murdered on Friday by an 18-year-old of Chechen origin who had become radicalized. He was in turn shot dead by police.

"Samuel Paty ... became the face of the Republic, of our will to shatter terrorists, to (do away with) Islamists, to live like a community of free citizens in our country," Macron said. "We will continue."

A ceremonial military guard carried the teacher's coffin into the cobblestone courtyard of the Sorbonne where the memorial took place before his family, government members and select guests. A giant screen was installed outside.

The stirring ceremony, with readings that included a poem by Albert Camus to his own teacher, came hours after the prosecutor sketched out how the teenager came to kill Paty, with the suspected help of two young students at the school in a northwest Paris suburb.

Jean-Francois Ricard said a 14-year-old and a 15-year-old are among seven people taken before an investigating magistrate on accusations of "complicity in murder in relation with a terrorist undertaking" and "criminal conspiracy."

The killer offered students at the school where Paty taught 300-350 euros ($355-$415) to help him pick out the educator, Ricard said during a news conference.

"The investigation has established that the perpetrator knew the name of the teacher, the name of the school and its address, yet he did not have the means to identify him," the prosecutor said. "That identification has only been possible with the help of students from the same school."

He said the implication of the two young adolescents "appeared to be conclusive."

Authorities have identified the killer as Abdoullakh Anzorov., a Moscow-born Chechen refugee.

Anzorov claimed responsibility in a text accompanied by a photograph of the victim found on his phone.

The other suspects include a student's father who posted videos on social media that called for mobilization against the teacher and an Islamist activist who helped the man disseminate the virulent messages, which named Paty and gave the school's address, Ricard said.

Two more men, aged 18 and 19, are accused of accompanying the attacker when he bought the weapons, including a knife and an airsoft gun, the prosecutor said. One of them allegedly drove Anzorov, who lived in the Normandy town of Evreux about 90 kilometers (56 miles) away, to near the school about three hours before the killing.

Another 18-year-old suspect had close contacts with the attacker and endorsed radical Islamism, Ricard said.

Spain 1st in western Europe to hit 1 million virus cases

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Spain became the first country in western Europe to accumulate more than 1 million confirmed COVID-19 infections on Wednesday as the nation of 47 million struggles to contain a resurgence of the virus.

The health ministry said that its accumulative case load since the start of the pandemic reached 1,005,295 after reporting 16,973 more cases in the past 24 hours.

The ministry attributes 34,366 deaths to COVID-19. Experts say that, as in most countries, the real numbers of infections and deaths are probably much higher because insufficient testing, asymptomatic cases and other issues impede authorities from capturing the true scale of the outbreak.

As the numbers rise, authorities in charge of health policy in Spain's regions are tightening restrictions. They want to stem the surge that has been building in recent months while avoiding a second total lockdown of home confinements that stemmed the first wave of the virus but left the economy reeling.

The regional government of northern Aragón announced Wednesday they have closed the city limits of Zaragoza, Huesca and Teruel. Neighboring Navarra, which leads Spain in infections per 100,000 over 14 days, is preparing to become the first Spanish region to close its borders on Thursday. La Rioja will also close its regional borders on Friday.

Spain's Health Minister Salvador Illa and regional heads of health will meet on Thursday to discuss their virus strategies and consider employing nightly curfews to target late-night partying as a source of contagion.

"I want to be very clear," Illa said Tuesday. "Some very hard weeks are coming."

France is not far behind in western Europe with over 930,000 reported cases. Russia has reported over 1.4 million cases. The U.S. leads the world with over 8 million reported cases, according to the Johns Hopkins tally that is considered a global standard for charting the progress of the pandemic.

Spain's cases per 100,000 inhabitants over 14 days, which is a more reliable indicator of the evolution of the virus, has decreased in recent days. It currently sits at 332 cases per 100,000, a figure that is still worrying but now lower than the Czech Republic, Belgium, Netherlands, France and Britain.

Despite the higher number of asymptomatic cases found through improved testing, the pressure is being felt in Spain's hospitals. Over 3,900 patients have required hospitalization over the past week, with 274 needing intensive care, the ministry said. Almost 40% of Madrid's ICU units are occupied by COVID-19 patients.

Off the Wall

Brazil leader's ally suspended after underwear cash jackpot

SAO PAULO (AP)—A Brazilian lawmaker stepped down from his position representing President Jair Bolsonaro's government and was suspended from the senate, after police searched his house and found cash inside the underwear he was wearing.

Federal police targeted Roraima state's Sen. Chico Rodrigues as part of a probe into the alleged misappropriation of COVID-19 funds, according to the 90-day suspension issued by Luís Roberto Barroso, a justice on Brazil's Supreme Court.

Police initially found 10,000 reais ($1,780) and $6,000 inside a safe in Rodrigues' house Wednesday, at which point the lawmaker asked if he could go to the bathroom, according to the police report, part of which is included in Barroso's ruling. As Rodrigues walked away, a police officer noticed a large, rectangular bulge under the senator's shorts.

"Found inside his underwear, near his buttocks, were stacks of money that totaled 15,000 reais ($2,675)," the report says. The ruling was reviewed by The Associated Press.

Asked three times whether he had any additional cash stowed, the senator angrily shoved his hand into his underwear to retrieve more stacks of bills, which totaled 17,900 reais ($3,200), according to the report.

A subsequent police search turned up another 250 reais ($45) from inside his underwear. There is video of that search, which Barroso wrote in his ruling he was declining to provide to the senate as it was "well within his (Rodrigues') intimate clothing" and could cause "greater discomfort."

Barroso wrote that Rodrigues' decision to hide the money indicated impropriety and had raised the possibility of decreeing preventative imprisonment. The senate can vote to reverse the suspension.

"My home was invaded for having done my job as a lawmaker, getting resources for the state to combat COVID-19," Rodrigues said in a statement. "I believe in justice and I will prove that I have nothing to do with any illicit act."

Earlier Thursday, Rodrigues resigned as deputy leader of Bolsonaro's government in the senate, according to the nation's official gazette.

Bolsonaro won the presidency in large part due to his vow to take on crime and corruption. However, his dedication to crimefighting has faced skepticism after his justice minister, Sergio Moro, resigned earlier this year, alleging Bolsonaro had sought to intervene improperly in the federal police. There are also investigations underway that target Bolsonaro's sons, who are lawmakers.

Late Wednesday, shortly before the first news report from online site Crusoe appeared about the police raid on Rodrigues' house, Bolsonaro said he would deliver a kick to the neck of anyone in his government found to be corrupt.

In the capital, Brasilia, Bolsonaro repeated his claim Thursday that his government hasn't been marred by the scandals as have previous administrations. He also said that, unlike ministers and heads of state-owned enterprises, Rodrigues doesn't form part of his government.

"We are combating corruption; it makes no difference who the person is," Bolsonaro said when asked about Rodrigues' case, adding the investigation was a point of pride.

Rodrigues is a member of the joint congressional committee tasked with executing the budget for COVID-19 measures.

Child, 5, helps crack lemur theft case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Police said Friday they arrested a man suspected of stealing a ring-tailed lemur from the San Francisco Zoo, where officials rewarded a 5-year-old boy who helped recapture the endangered primate with a lifetime membership.

This undated photo provided by the San Francisco Police, courtesy of the San Francisco Zoo, shows a missing lemur named Maki. AP

The theft of Maki, an arthritic 21-year-old lemur, made the news Wednesday in San Francisco and beyond when zoo officials reported the animal missing and found evidence of forced entry at his enclosure.

Five-year-old James Trinh was unaware of the headlines when leaving his preschool Thursday in Daly City, about 5 miles from the zoo, and exclaimed, "There's a lemur! There's a lemur!" Cynthia Huang, director of the Hope Lutheran Day School, told the San Francisco Chronicle Friday.

Huang was skeptical at first. "I thought, Are you sure it's not a raccoon?" she said.

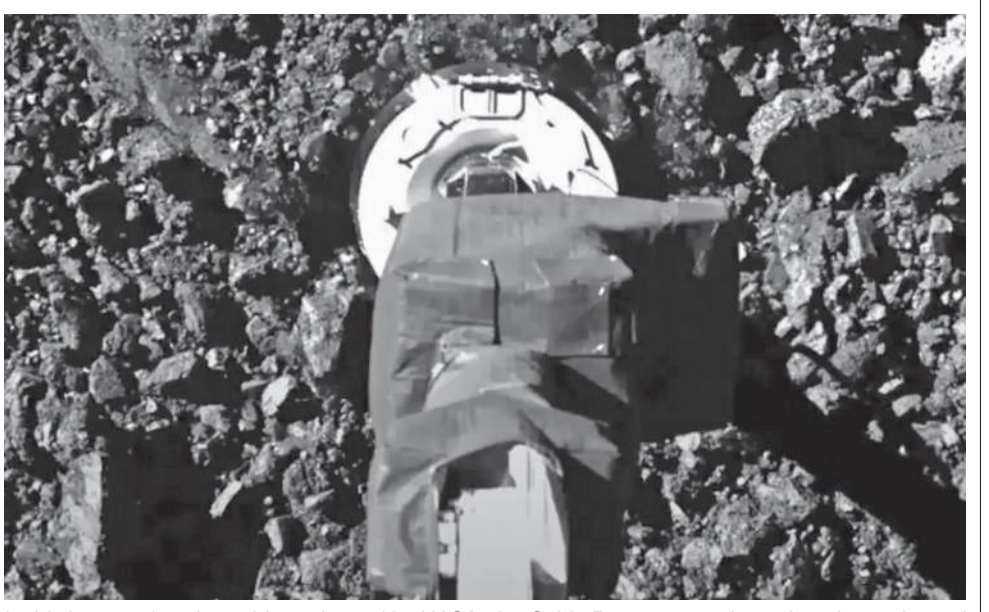
Maki scurried from the parking lot into the school's playground and took refuge in a miniature play house, as the school called police who quickly alerted animal control and zoo officials. The children, parents and teachers watched as caretakers arrived and coaxed the lemur into a transport cage, Huang said.

Also Thursday, police took 30-year-old Cory McGilloway into custody, San Francisco police Lt. Scott Ryan told reporters Friday.

McGilloway, whom investigators had identified as a suspect in the lemur's abduction, was arrested Thursday evening by San Rafael police on unrelated charges. He was expected to be transferred to San Francisco County Jail to be booked on charges of burglary, grand theft of an animal, looting and vandalism all related to the lemur theft, Ryan said.

Police did not provide other details, saying the investigation was still underway but credited a multi-agency effort and tips on a public tip line that led to the suspect's capture.

Science & Technology



In this image taken from video released by NASA, the Osiris-Rex spacecraft touches the surface of asteroid Bennu on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020. NASA VIA AP

NASA spacecraft sends asteroid rubble flying in grab for sample

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft crushed rocks and sent rubble flying as it briefly touched an asteroid, a strong indication that samples were collected for return to Earth, officials said Wednesday.

Scientists won't know until next week how much was gathered at asteroid Bennu—they want at least a handful of the cosmic rubble. But close-up pictures and video of Tuesday's touch-and-go operation raised hopes that goal was achieved.

"We really did kind of make a mess on the surface of this asteroid, but it's a good mess, the kind of mess we were hoping for," said lead scientist Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona at Tucson.

It was the first asteroid-sampling effort by the U.S., coming four years after the spacecraft rocketed from Cape Canaveral and two years after it reached Bennu. Japan has taken asteroid samples twice.

The carbon-rich Bennu is a time capsule believed to contain the original building blocks of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago and, as such, can help scientists better understand the origins of Earth and life as we know it.

Osiris-Rex scored a near bull's-eye, reaching down with its robot arm to within a yard (meter) of its intended target zone in the center of boulder-rimmed Nightingale Crater. The sampling container on the arm made contact with the black, crumbly terrain for about six seconds and pushed at least three-quarters of an inch (2 centimeters) into the ground, crushing a large rock in the process, officials said.

As planned, pressurized nitrogen gas fired onto the surface a second later, to kick up a shower of debris so the spacecraft could suck up as much dust and as many pebbles as possible.

The spacecraft quickly backed away and, by Wednesday, was a safe 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Bennu.

Several hours passed before the pictures started pouring in. Lauretta said he was up until the wee hours Wednesday, overjoyed at what he saw. He watched the touch-and-go video about 100 times—"it's just so cool"—then went to sleep.

"I dreamed of a wonder world of Bennu regolith particles floating all around me," he said.

Over the next few days, a camera on the spacecraft will aim at the sampler on the end of the robot arm, looking for signs of asteroid residue. If the lighting is right, the camera might even be able to peek into the sample chamber. The spacecraft will also be put into a slow spin, with its arm extended, to provide a more accurate measure of the precious payload.

Who is harmed by Google's market power?

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Google has long defended itself against charges of monopoly by stressing that its products are free and that no one has to use them.

And it's avoided tough government scrutiny for years based in part on the idea that people searching the internet are not Google's true customers.

We're its product. Advertisers are its real customers. That complicates the question of who, if anyone, is hurt by Google's dominance in selling ads off the world's search queries and through its array of affiliated businesses, from its Android phone software to its YouTube video platform and digital maps.

The U.S. Justice Department's new antitrust lawsuit against Google argues that both advertisers and regular people are harmed by the tech giant's position as "the unchallenged gateway to the internet for billions of users worldwide."

"As a consequence, countless advertisers must pay a toll to Google's search advertising and general search text advertising monopolies," the government wrote in Tuesday's landmark complaint, which asks a federal court to intervene to protect competition. "American consumers are forced to accept Google's policies, privacy practices, and use of personal data; and new companies with innovative business models cannot emerge from Google's long shadow."

The government argues that Google has abused its monopoly power through agreements with other companies that promote Google's apps and place its "search access points" as a default on browsers, phones and other devices. All of this drives more searches of Google at the expense of its rivals, the complaint alleges.

Life & Style

Giuliani shown in hotel bedroom scene in new 'Borat' film

NEW YORK (AP)—Rudy Giuliani is shown in a compromising position in a hotel room with a young woman acting as a television journalist in a scene in Sacha Baron Cohen's latest mockumentary, a sequel to his hit "Borat" film.

The scene shot in a New York hotel room in July—which resulted in Giuliani calling police—includes a moment when Giuliani is seen lying on a bed, tucking in his shirt with his hand down his pants and the young woman nearby.

Giuliani

Giuliani went to the hotel room thinking he was being interviewed about the Trump administration's COVID-19 response. The young woman is flirtatious with him and invites him to the bedroom, which is rigged with hidden cameras.

Giuliani then asks for her phone number and address. He lies back on the bed to tuck in his shirt after she helps remove his recording equipment, and he has his hands in his pants when Baron Cohen rushes in wearing an outlandish outfit.

Baron Cohen, who was disguised as part of the crew, screams that the young woman is 15 years old. Up to that point, there is no indication she is underage. The character, who is Borat's daughter, is played by Maria Bakalova, who is listed as 24 years old on the Internet Movie Database site, IMDb.com.

Speaking on his weekly radio program on WABC on Wednesday afternoon, Giuliani called the scene "a hit job."

"I am tucking my shirt in, I assure you, that's all that I was doing," he said. He said he realized he was being set up when the woman asked whether he wanted a massage.

"At no time before, during, or after the interview was I ever inappropriate," Giuliani tweeted. "If Sacha Baron Cohen implies otherwise, he is a stone-cold liar."

Bad Bunny, Daddy Yankee top Billboard Latin Music Awards

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)—Bad Bunny and Daddy Yankee triumphed at the Billboard Latin Music Awards Wednesday, claiming seven trophies apiece at the pandemic-delayed show.

Bad Bunny won artist of the year, the night's top honor, as well as top Latin album for "X 100PRE" and songwriter of the year. He did not attend the ceremony.

Daddy Yankee won six of his awards for his hit "Con Calma," which featured the 1990s artist Snow. His honors included the hot Latin song aware, and song of the year honors for streaming and airplay and digital platforms.

The reggaeton star dedicated the first of his awards to those who had lost loved ones due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. "Music remains medicine," he said.

Actress Gaby Espino hosted the ceremony, which aired live on Telemundo from the BB&T Center in Sunrise, Florida. The event had a red carpet, but no audience.

Mexican romance singer-songwriter Armando Manzanero received a Lifetime Achievement Award during the ceremony.

Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee were also recognized for "Despacito," which was named song of the decade.

Over 60 exhibits damaged at Berlin museums, motive a mystery

BERLIN (AP)—More than 60 artworks and artifacts at some of Berlin's best-known museums were smeared with an oily liquid by an unknown perpetrator or perpetrators earlier this month, authorities said Wednesday. They were hopeful that the apparently random damage can be repaired, but said the motive was a mystery.

The works at the Museum Island complex, a UNESCO world heritage site in the heart of the German capital that is one of the city's main tourist attractions, were targeted at some point between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Oct. 3. Investigators said they had watched hours of surveillance camera footage but hadn't found any obvious sign of anyone applying the liquid.

In all, 63 works at the Pergamon Museum, the Alte Nationalgalerie and the Neues Museum were affected, said Christina Haak, the deputy director of Berlin's state museums. There was no thematic link between the targeted works, and "no pattern is discernible" to the perpetrator's approach, Haak added.

The liquid was oily but not corrosive, said Friederike Seyfried, the director of Berlin's Egyptian collection, which is housed in the Neues Museum. She wouldn't give more specific details of the colorless fluid, citing the ongoing investigation.

Carrie Underwood named top artist at CMT Music Awards

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Carrie Underwood already had the most CMT Music Awards of any artist, but she'll need to make more room on her shelf. The superstar picked up two more trophies for video of the year and female video of the year in a remotely shot awards show.

Underwood

Underwood appeared on video to accept for "Drinking Alone" and thanked fans for voting for her during an unpredictable year when touring ground to a halt because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This one is all about you guys especially because we again haven't been together but I feel so loved tonight," said Underwood.

Pop star Gwen Stefani won her first CMT Music Award for collaborative video of the year for her duet with Blake Shelton on "Nobody But You." The couple shared a hug and drinks together and expressed their love for one another in their recorded speech. "What is happening in my life?" Stefani exclaimed.

"This is a crazy pairing in lots of different ways, but it's working," Shelton said as they clinked glasses.

The country stars came out to celebrate even if audiences weren't there. Country's newest star Luke Combs shotgunned a beer with legends Brooks and Dunn to open the show.

Country singers Kane Brown and Ashley McBryde joined "Modern Family" actor Sarah Hyland as co-hosts during Wednesday night's show, which was shot in various outdoor locations around Nashville, Tennessee, including the former home of Reba McEntire.

Taylor Swift, who won breakthrough video of the year 13 years ago, presented the award to Gabby Barrett, for her song "I Hope," which has been a No. 1 hit across both country and pop charts this year.

Natalie Portman releases children's book of inclusive fables

NEW YORK (AP)—Natalie Portman is putting her body through the paces to get into fighting shape for her next Marvel movie. The Oscar winner, preparing to film "Thor: Love and Thunder" in Sydney, Australia, is training hard after a monthslong pandemic pause in her diet and exercise regimen.

"It was a free-for-all. I did not exercise at all, I ate all the foods I needed and wanted," she said, laughing and acknowledging that she's "really tired" of waking up early for the renewed exercise program. Portman said she recognizes she's fortunate that her job keeps her accountable, "so I have no choice but to tough it out."

Portman

Like so many, she's also a busy mom navigating her 9-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter's school and socialization during the pandemic. She pauses an interview to silence her phone, which keeps dinging because her son is on a text chain with his classmates.

Motherhood is what makes her latest project, "Natalie Portman's Fables," so close to her heart. Portman tweaked three classic children's stories—"The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Three Little Pigs" and "Country Mouse and City Mouse"—to make them more gender-inclusive.

Widow's adult kids begrudge her dating a family friend

DEAR ABBY: I was married for more than 30 years and have two grown children. The marriage wasn't perfect, and I admit there were times when I badly wanted to walk out the door. My husband was charismatic and talented, but he was also an addict. I covered up most of his bad behaviors so our children would be protected from being hurt. He passed away suddenly. My children adored him but never really knew how hard it was for me to keep our family together.

Fast-forward to today: I am dating an old family friend I'll call "Jeff," who knew my husband well. He saw my spouse at his best and his worst, so I don't have to sugarcoat my feelings with him. My issue is, I was so hurt during my marriage that I have a hard time trusting anyone. My anxiety is sometimes overwhelming.

Jeff is supportive and understanding and loves me despite my emotional behavior at times. My adult children are upset that I am dating and try to make me feel bad about it, which creates more stress. I don't want them to know all the hell I went through, but at the same time, I don't think their belittling me is appropriate. Is there a tactful way to explain to them that I just want to be happy and have the freedom to move forward?

READY FOR THE FUTURE

DEAR READY: A polite, but assertive, way to convey your message might be to say: "I have just one life to live, kids, and I intend to live it to the fullest. Jeff and I are old friends—he's not a stranger. I don't need your approval to move on with my life. If you can't stop belittling and second-guessing me and treat my friend with respect, you will be seeing a lot less of me."

DEAR ABBY: My brother has married a pushy woman who is incessantly forcing her way in where it is not wanted. With the recent death of our father, she has started sticking her nose into the family's business affairs. This is not about money; our father died in debt.

I finally took exception to her overbearing behavior, and now I'm afraid I have damaged my relationship with my brother. What can be done?

CORNERED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR CORNERED: The "pushy" woman your brother married is now a member of the family. When there is a death in the family, emotions can run high. If you feel you were too rough on your sister-in-law, you owe her an apology.

DEAR ABBY: A young, attractive female co-worker of my husband's addresses him by his first name ending with "ly" (example: "Georgely"). When I asked how the name was acquired, both of them claimed they didn't remember. They know I do not approve, particularly on social media for the world to see.

I consider pet names a term of endearment, to be reserved for one's significant other. Am I out of line, or are they?

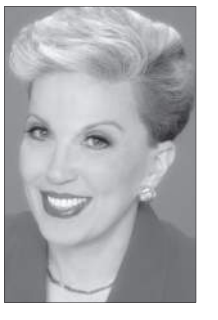
NAME-DROPPING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR NAME-DROPPING: What the pet name may signify is that your husband and his co-worker may have a closer personal relationship than simply a professional one. And in most cases, that isn't good for business. That he would allow this to persist publicly, knowing it bothers you, is disrespectful, and THAT is what is out of line.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

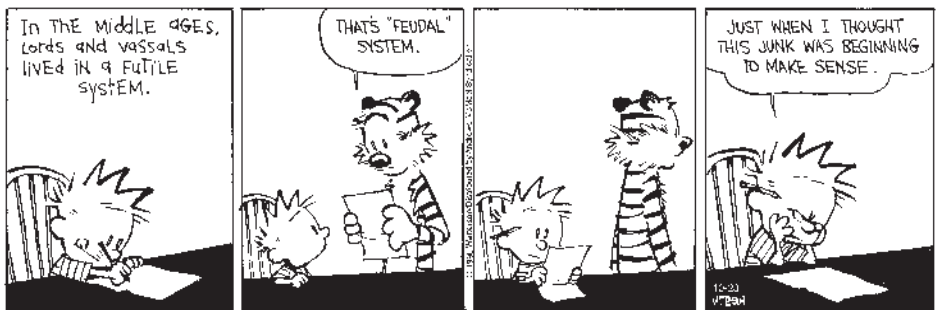


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

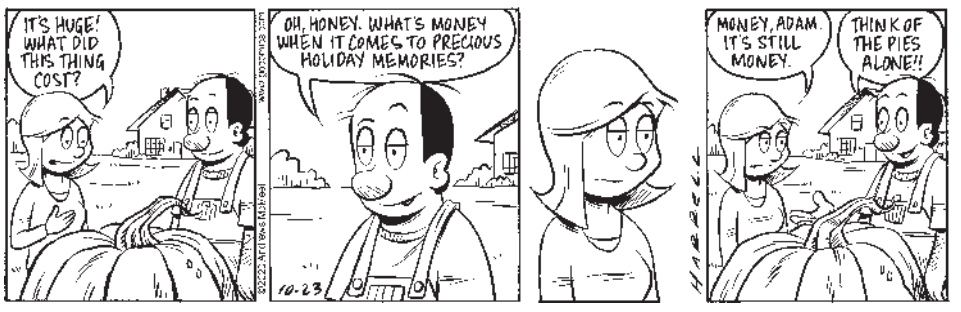

In THE MIDDLE AGES, lords and vassals lived in a futile system.
THAT'S "FEUDAL" SYSTEM.
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THIS JUNK WAS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IT'S HUGE! WHAT DID THIS THING COST?
OH, HONEY. WHAT'S MONEY WHEN IT COMES TO PRECIOUS HOLIDAY MEMORIES?
MONEY, ADAM. IT'S STILL MONEY.
THINK OF THE PIES ALONE!!
10-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'VE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT AND I'M VOTING FOR THIS CANDIDATE.
GOOD TO KNOW YOU'RE TAKING DEMOCRACY SERIOUSLY.
YEAH, HE'S GOT THE CUTEST GIRLS IN HIS ADS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wit
6 Super Bowl VIP
9 "— Poetica"
12 Ouzo flavor
13 "— a Camera"
14 Actress Lucy
15 Baryshnikov, to friends
16 Letter
18 Biblical strong fellow
20 Driver with a handle
21 Glacial
23 "Mayday!"
24 Vouchers
25 Heath
27 Yule tune
29 Mouse sound
31 Off the hook
35 Twangy
37 Pocket bread
38 Farm units
41 Poorly lit
43 Droop
44 Grub
45 Lustrous fabrics
47 Absent
49 Temperaments
52 Yalie
53 "The Simpsons" barkeep
54 Violin piece
55 D.C. bigwig
56 "Frontline" airer
57 Hinder

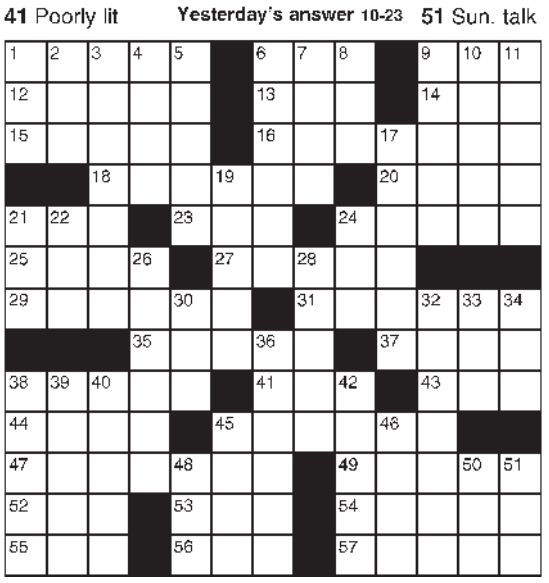
DOWN

1 Deli choice
2 Half of bi-
3 Message from a distant lover
4 Fed. workplace monitor
5 Paper packs
6 Orange juice and champagne
7 Futile
8 Evening hrs.
9 Suspect's excuse
10 Metal fastener
11 Litigants
17 Drag
19 Foot warmers
21 Online chats, briefly
22 — au vin
24 "Friends" cast member
26 Extends, as a lease
28 Ignited again
30 Small batteries
32 Pass up an opportunity
33 School org.
34 Kids' game
36 Saws
38 Pinnacles
39 Peru neighbor
40 Cello bow application
42 Acted wordlessly
45 Uppity sort
46 Memo
48 Little rascal
50 HST follower
51 Sun. talk

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	E	P		C	A	W		T	R	O	T
L	E	V	I		O	L	E		R	O	L	E
A	R	I	Z		D	I	F		A	D	D	S
B	A	L	Z	A	C		T	R	U	C	E	S
			A	L	A			A	M	A		
J	I	M	S		K	E	G	P	A	R	I	Y
O	O	O			E	N	O			E	R	E
E	N	D	C	R	S	E	D		F	W		W
		S	N	O			O	W	L			
S	E	Q	U		N		F	E	U	D	E	D
I	C	U	S		Y	O	W		M	E	T	O
B	R	A	E		E	V	A		E	W	A	N
S	U	D	S		T	A	R		S	S	T	S

Yesterday's answer 10-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Reynolds, 44; Cat Deeley, 44; Weird Al Yankovic, 61; Dwight Yoakam, 64.

Happy Birthday: Call in favors, and put everything in place. Preparation will give you the confidence you require to take advantage of the changes and interesting trends heading your way. Knowledge and experience will play major roles in the way your life unfolds. A unique approach to relationships will help you secure an exciting future filled with adventure. Personal growth is featured. Your numbers are 5, 18, 24, 32, 38, 46, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Refuse to let the past infiltrate the present when faced with an emotional decision. A meaningful relationship will abruptly change if you say something insensitive. Concentrate on what you can accomplish that will benefit you as well as others. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An emotional incident will set you back if you let it interfere with your productivity. Say less, do more, and do your best to keep the peace. You will gain respect based on how you handle your friends, colleagues and loved ones. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of what you have worked so hard to achieve. Pour your heart and soul into doing what's right. Offering assistance or your services to help a cause will be enlightening. Refuse to let criticism daunt you. Stand up for your beliefs. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Your heart is in the right place, but if you are too generous, someone is likely to take advantage of you. Don't offer cash; offer time, wisdom and a kind word. A relationship you cherish needs some tender loving care. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Physical activities and hard work will help you stay out of trouble. If you share opinions, you will end up in an argument that will eat up your time and leave you at a loss. Stay focused, and take care of business. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take your ideas to the next level. Discuss your plans with someone who can offer valid suggestions and possibly help you reach your objective. Sharing a pastime with someone you love will improve the dynamics of your relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Work on self-improvement, and let others fend for themselves. The less interaction you have, the easier it will be to keep the peace. Avoid demanding situations and arguments. Take precautions to maintain a healthy immune system. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Travel down the information highway. Gather facts, take care of unfinished business and plan for the future. Stop procrastinating when you should be updating and heading into a new phase of your life. An unexpected visit will be eye-opening. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Withhold personal information from anyone asking too many questions about your past. Being a little mysterious will play out in your favor when you face competitive situations. Handle expenditures with moderation. Physical fitness will help you maintain good health. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Deal with friends, relatives and colleagues carefully. Don't let your emotions lead to poor decisions. A change may be overdue, but unless it's something feasible, wait for a better opportunity. Focus on health and financial stability. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Mull over your thoughts and feelings, but don't be too quick to share your plans. A change someone makes will be revealing. Bide your time, and consider your options carefully. Spend time clearing up mental, physical and emotional clutter. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You may think you know what's trending or best for you, but before you take a risk, consider how much it will cost. Overdoing it will result in setbacks that will influence your financial position or health. Play it safe. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are informative, entertaining and original. You are mysterious and relentless.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6					7		
5		2	8		7			3
	9			3				
	5				3		4	
		3				8		
	8		4				6	
				2			3	
2			7		5	9		4
	1						8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	1	2	7	9	5	6	8	4
8	4	7	3	6	2	1	9	5
6	9	5	4	8	1	3	7	2
9	3	6	2	1	7	4	5	8
7	8	1	5	4	9	2	3	6
5	2	4	6	3	8	7	1	9
4	6	9	1	5	3	8	2	7
1	7	8	9	2	4	5	6	3
2	5	3	8	7	6	9	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SALT-FREE DIETS — Solution: 10 letters

C	M	U	I	D	O	S	V	B	T	C	U	R	R	Y
O	O	H	E	A	R	T	O	O	Y	O	G	U	R	T
N	R	M	E	N	U	T	S	G	E	O	E	B	E	T
S	T	S	P	O	T	S	N	A	C	K	L	A	P	A
U	O	L	E	L	L	I	R	G	I	I	A	L	P	N
M	N	K	E	V	I	B	D	S	R	N	C	A	E	O
P	A	D	S	G	I	C	D	E	G	G	I	N	P	I
T	H	L	H	P	U	T	A	E	K	G	D	C	L	T
I	L	E	S	B	I	M	A	T	N	O	E	E	A	A
O	I	A	A	O	D	C	E	N	I	N	M	S	B	R
N	F	K	D	L	S	E	E	S	R	O	A	S	E	A
E	E	I	S	I	T	A	D	S	N	E	N	C	L	P
D	L	R	R	M	L	H	L	D	P	E	T	S	S	E
L	A	S	M	I	P	A	S	T	A	M	I	L	K	R
J	E	K	A	T	N	I	D	E	G	A	K	C	A	P

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Added, Also Salt, Alternatives, Baked, Balance, Bottled, Canned, Complications, Consumption, Cooking, Curry, Dill, Eggs, Grill, Health, Heart, Intake, Jars, Labels, Legumes, Lemon, Life, Limit, Medical, Milk, Morton, Mrs. Dash, Nuts, Packaged, Pasta, Peas, Pepper, Preparation, Rice, Safe, Smoked, Snack, Sodium, Spices, Takeout, Toss, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Bar Codes

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lowe homers twice, Rays even World Series

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Brandon Lowe busted out early and Tampa Bay's bullpen hung on late.

Rays and Dodgers, tied in Texas.

Lowe shook loose from his extended postseason slump with two opposite-field home runs, and Tampa Bay held off Los Angeles 6-4 on Wednesday night to square the World Series at one game apiece.

"Yeah, those felt really good," said Lowe, a 2019 All-Star who led the Rays with 14 homers and 37 RBIs this season. "It felt great to kind of get back and contribute to the team. You know, they've been doing so well for the past month — it felt really good to get back and actually start doing stuff again."

Blake Snell struck out nine in 4 2/3 innings for the Rays and didn't allow a hit until Chris Taylor's two-run homer trimmed it to 5-2 in the fifth. The Dodgers threatened to complete a big comeback in the eighth, but Tampa Bay's relievers held firm.

Lowe and Joey Wendle each drove in three runs for the Rays.

Nick Anderson got four outs for the win. Diego Castillo earned the save when he struck out Taylor, the only batter he faced.

Left-hander Aaron Loup also did a nice job, throwing a called third strike past Cody Bellinger with a runner on second to end the eighth before retiring the first two hitters in the ninth.

After an off day, Game 3 in the best-of-seven Series matches two big-game pitchers starting on extra rest Friday night. Charlie Morton gets the ball for Tampa Bay against Walker Buehler.

Lowe hit an opposite-field solo homer to left-center in the first off Tony Gonsolin, putting the American League champion Rays ahead for the first time at this neutral-site World Series with their 27th home run of the postseason, matching a major league record. The second baseman was hitting .107 this postseason, and in an even worse 4-for-48 slide (.083) the past 13 games since the start of the AL Division Series.

"Sometimes guys, you've got to allow them to go through some tough patches, and he's been in one," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "He will go quiet for a little while, but he can get as hot as anybody in baseball."

By the time he went deep again in the fifth, his second opposite-field shot of the game and the entire season—with a runner on against Dustin May, already the fourth Dodgers pitcher — it was 5-0.

Will Smith and NLCS MVP Corey Seager also homered for the Dodgers. Seager's solo shot in the eighth was his seventh homer and 16th RBI, extended the franchise records he had already set this postseason. Those are also the most homers by a shortstop in any MLB postseason.

Snell already had all his strikeouts when he walked Kiké Hernández with two outs in the fifth before Taylor, the No. 9 batter, homered on his 80th pitch. The Rays ace was out of the game two batters later, after Mookie Betts walked and Seager singled.

"He was outstanding," Cash said. "The slider from my vantage looked like it was a really good weapon for him. He was awesome. Gave us everything that we needed."

Anderson got out of the jam with a strikeout of Justin Turner.

The Dodgers knew it would be primarily a bullpen game using various arms, instead of bringing back Buehler on short rest after ace lefty Clayton Kershaw threw six strong innings in their 8-3 win Tuesday night in Game 1.

Four of the first five LA pitchers allowed runs, with Dylan Floro keeping a clean slate after benefiting from a nice defensive play and a replay review that ended the second. The Dodgers were the first team to use four pitchers within the first four innings of a World Series game since the Oakland Athletics against Cincinnati in Game 3 of the 1990 World Series.

Gonsolin, the rookie right-hander who started, allowed Lowe's first homer and was done after 1 1/3 innings. That was the shortest start in a World Series game since San Francisco's Jake Peavy was done after giving up five runs in 1 1-/ innings in a 10-0 loss at Kansas City in Game 6 of the 2014 World Series.

Snell threw only 10 pitches in a 1-2-3 first that included strikeouts of Betts and Turner. After 11 of his first 15 pitches in the second inning were balls, among two walks and a strikeout, the 2018 Al Cy Young Award winner retired the next 10 batters until the walk to Hernández in the fifth.

The left-hander was attacking with breaking pitches in the strike zone, not his usual pattern, since the Dodgers don't often chase. But Los Angeles didn't get many bats on the ball against him. But less than a week after an aggressive hook by Cash to take Snell out of Game 6 of the ALCS after four innings, he still hasn't completed six innings in a game since July 2019.

Smith homered for Los Angeles in the sixth off Anderson.

A bobble by Hernández at second base proved costly, taking away a potential inning-ending double play in the fourth before the Dodgers changed pitchers again and gave up two runs.

With one out and Randy Arozarena at first, Ji-Man Choi hit a grounder to Hernández, and by time the second baseman gathered the ball to get the force, Seager's relay throw was late. Manuel Margot then greeted May, the third reliever, with a single before Wendle's two-run double into the right-center gap for a 3-0 lead.

Wendle added a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Brandon Lowe hits a two-run home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the fifth inning in Game 2 of the World Series Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020, in Arlington, Texas.

Tokyo Olympics working on COVID-19 measures

TOKYO (AP)— Tokyo Olympic officials want the world to know they are working on measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic at next year's games, even if they don't know exactly what they will be.

Tokyo organizers showcased a few possible remedies on Wednesday, displaying various screening measures at the city's Big Sight convention complex, the home of the media center for the Olympics.

"Our objective is to demonstrate what we are doing toward the safety and security of the Olympics," said Tsuyoshi Iwashita, the executive director of the Tokyo Olympics security bureau.

Most of it looked familiar, including hand sanitizers and people passing through scanning devices with guards wearing face shields at the other end.

One innovation involved a sticker placed on the wrist to measure body temperature in a few seconds.

"This time we have tried different methods and analyzed them," Iwashita said. "I think there is no right answer but we still have to think about what we should do. There are various (sports) competitions going on, but I think the challenge is to find out what kind of method is suitable for the world's largest sports event—the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics."

It won't be easy, or perfect.

Athletes around the globe have come down with COVID-19 despite precautions. Ten members of the Italian swim team reported positive for the virus on Tuesday, including world champions Simona Quadarella and Gabriele Detti. On the other hand, the NBA recently finished its season without a single positive test.

The International Olympic Committee has said that athletes testing positive at the Olympics are likely to be excluded, perhaps extinguishing years of training.

The Olympic numbers are huge: 11,000 athletes, and thousands of officials, judges, VIPs, volunteers, sponsors, media and broadcasters. Add another 4,400 athletes for the Paralympics. Then inject the question of fans: Will there be any? Or will only Japanese be allowed?

Finally, factor in the possibility that a vaccine will be ready when the games are to open on July 23, 2021. But should athletes be a priority? And should they be compelled to be vaccinated? And who pays for the vaccine?

Tokyo organizers and the IOC have said they are testing "many scenarios" and are unlikely to explain until early next year exactly how the Olympics can be held safely.

Their main job now is to convince skeptical sponsors and fans that the games will happen, allowing the IOC to collect billions of dollars from broadcasters and sponsors.

Earlier this year, organizers and the IOC waited until March before deciding to postpone the Olympics.

Japan has attributed about 1,700 deaths to COVID-19, having escaped soaring fatalities that have affected many other countries. It has also employed strict controls over immigration since the pandemic.

Kozue Tanno, who works as a security guard, participated in the Wednesday simulations. She talked about the challenge of COVID-19, and also mentioned Tokyo's scorching summer heat.

"We did a demonstration experiment this time and tried to work with a face shield for COVID-19 countermeasures, and even though the temperature was low, I felt the heat," she said. "We inspected about 20 people but in reality that will not be the case. When it comes to guiding a large number of visitors for a very long time, I am very worried that my sweat will drip on the face shield during the hot summer months."

Stan Van Gundy to coach Zion, Pelicans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Stan Van Gundy is headed to the New Orleans Pelicans, where he'll take over a promising team that includes 2019 No. 1 overall draft pick Zion Williamson and reigning Most Improved Player Brandon Ingram.

Van Gundy agreed to a four-year contract, said a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the terms had not been revealed publicly.

The coach said on his Twitter account Wednesday that he was "excited to join a talented New Orleans Pelicans team" and thanked team owner Gayle Benson and others for the opportunity.

"It will be an honor to work with our players and to work for Mrs. Benson and David Griffin, Trajan Langdon, their staff and the great people of New Orleans," Van Gundy wrote. "I can't wait to talk to our players and get the process started."

Among the players he'll talk to is veteran locker-room leader JJ Redick, who spent his second through sixth NBA seasons playing for Van Gundy in Orlando. Redick has readily credited Van Gundy for helping him develop into a reliable double-digit scorer.

"In terms of intangibles and characteristics I think any NBA player should have, I think he taught me those things and he reinforced those things in me — professionalism, accountability ... not taking any nights off, all that stuff, because he lives that," Redick said of Van Gundy in 2016, when he played for the Los Angeles Clippers and Van Gundy was coaching Detroit. "I see how hard he works, how much he invests in his craft, and so as a player, playing for him, you really have no choice but to do the same."

In New Orleans, Van Gundy will replace Alvin Gentry, who was let go after the Pelicans missed this season's playoffs. Part of the problem for the Pelicans this season was that Williamson missed most of the season; he averaged 22.5 points and 6.3 rebounds per game on 58% shooting, albeit in only 24 games.

The Pelicans were 30-42 this past season, getting to the NBA's restart bubble at Walt Disney World but falling well short of the playoffs. They have a promising young core with Williamson, Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Jaxson Hayes and Nickeil Alexander-Walker, plus currently hold four picks in this year's draft.

Van Gundy, 61, is a seasoned coach with a more traditional and direct style of communicating with players. His task now is to get Williamson and a largely young supporting cast to buy into a vision that is bound to emphasize defense as much, if not more, than pace of play.

AP

In this April 8, 2018 file photo, Detroit Pistons head coach Stan Van Gundy, top, talks with guard Luke Kennard in the first half of an NBA game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Memphis, Tenn.

Van Gundy spent parts of 12 seasons coaching Miami, Orlando and Detroit, winning 58% of his games and going to the playoffs eight times. He was Dwyane Wade's first coach in Miami after Pat Riley's surprise resignation in the fall of 2003, then stepped down from the Heat job 21 games into the 2005-06 season — the year Miami went on to win its first championship.

He won 66% of his games in five seasons in Orlando, taking the Magic to the 2009 NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers and going to the playoffs in each of those seasons. His firing from the Magic in 2012 came after a season in which he said he'd been told by management that Dwight Howard wanted him fired.

And then his four seasons in Detroit were largely a struggle—three losing seasons, the best year in that run being a 44-38 season where the Pistons got swept from the playoffs.

But a common theme in Van Gundy's coaching career is solid defense. In eight of his seasons, his teams ranked in the top 10 defensively, including the 2008-09 Magic that ranked first.

"Pretty much any sort of team defense concept that's pertinent to modern NBA basketball, I learned from Stan," Redick has said.

'Homeless' Raptors

Meanwhile, nne big focus for next season has been the status of the Toronto Raptors. Due to the United States' handling of COVID-19, travel into Canada has been banned.

MLB's Toronto Blue Jays played their home games in Buffalo, and the Toronto FC of the MLS played its games in East Hartford, Connecticut.

The Raptors face a similar dilemma, and league sources said one alternate location that has been broached is Louisville, Kentucky. Former NBA player and successful businessman Junior Bridgeman has been in contact with the NBA, considering Louisville has the KFC Yum! Center that is NBA-ready.

No decision has been made yet, as it's on a laundry list of topics to be discussed on the upcoming call, along with the collective bargaining agreement, competitive formats for next season and an update on the social justice coalition.

Louisville wouldn't be first in line in the event of relocation or expansion; Seattle is. But it seems to be an easier sell to get the Raptors in Louisville for a short period — or even sharing a current NBA market, according to sources.

How this goes with the league's objectives of getting fans in seats is an interesting proposition if the Raptors would play home games in, say, New York or Chicago, given there's no natural fan base there.

A league official said the same line commissioner Adam Silver has been parroting for months now, that the virus will determine so much of the league's actions. It doesn't appear likely the virus will slow down enough for Canada to open its borders for frequent international travel anytime soon.

The NBA is appearing to take proactive measures similar to its professional counterparts.

Tiger leads 11 returning players at Sherwood

CALIFORNIA (AP)—Sherwood Country Club again is hosting some of the world's best players, some of whom return to memories of clutch shots, free money and a happy time of the year with the holidays right around the corner.

Just not very many of them.

In another sign of a younger generation on the PGA Tour, defending champion Tiger Woods is among just 11 players in the 78-man field for the Zozo Championship at Sherwood who have competed on the Jack Nicklaus design.

Jon Rahm, Justin Thomas and Xander Schauffele were not even on the PGA Tour when Sherwood hosted the unofficial World Challenge for the 14th and final time in 2013. PGA champion Collin Morikawa was at Sherwood back then, as a young spectator looking for an autograph (he didn't get it).

Patrick Reed was a month away from cracking the top 50 in the world. Top 5 remains out of reach so far.

The happiest memories belong to Woods, who won his tournament five times at Sherwood and was runner-up on five other occasions. He was younger then, and there's one other big change.

"I have played well here over the years," Woods said. "Let's just say that the field is a lot bigger than normally when I have played here. I only had to beat 11 other guys. So that's very different."

His math was a little off. He had to beat 15 other players except for 2011, when the field was expanded to a whopping 18 players. It was a hard to get into Woods' holiday tournament, and the same could be said now.

The Zozo Championship made its debut last year in Japan, and it was a big success despite rain that wiped out one day and led to a Monday finish. It had Woods as a winner, his 82nd career PGA Tour title, to tie Sam Snead for the record.

But with the COVID-19 pandemic—along with the Masters moving to November — so many players were staying put that the Zozo Championship opted to move to Sherwood for the year. And now everyone is playing.

Sixty of the 78 players come from the FedEx Cup standings last year. Only one player—U.S. Open champion Bryson DeChambeau, who is back in the lab in Dallas working on his 48-inch driver—did not enter. Dustin Johnson and Adam Scott had to withdraw after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Woods needed a sponsor exemption as the defending champion. So did Phil Mickelson, Jordan Spieth, Rickie Fowler, Tommy Fleetwood and Justin Rose.

Woods has played only four times since the PGA Tour resumed in June, and not particularly well. And while some of the greens have changed, there's no denying his history at the Jack Nicklaus design.

Rory McIlroy played Sherwood twice, and the first time in 2010 was memorable. It was his first time playing in a tournament with Woods, in the second round. That was cool. The finish, not so much.

"I was pretty excited to be playing in that tournament. And it's an 18-man field. You've got to be one of the best players in the world to tee it up," McIlroy said. "I remember coming down the last hole. I think he was 5 under for the day and I was 4 under. And I'm thinking, 'If I birdie, I can tie him.'

"He ended up making birdie and I doubled the last," McIlroy said.

That experience this week falls to Matthew Wolff, who grew up 10 minutes away in Agoura Hills and was so good so young that he was invited to play Sherwood as a young tee and still gets privileges when he comes home.

Wolff was 14 when he came out to Sherwood to watch, and it looked like another winning moment for Woods, right up until Zach Johnson holed out for par from the drop area on the 18th and won with a par in a playoff.

Triathletes, bikers groups present North Trail devt plan

Bikers pass through the Santa Claus Trail during a local tournament in 2018. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation have submitted its enhancement project plan for the North Trail in support of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative.

Under their proposal, the two sports organizations will work on the maintenance and installation of signage (informative and directional) at the North Trail, which includes Banzai Trail, Santa Claus, Autobahn, Bird Island Trail, and Kimikaze Trail. These trails are interconnected and located at the heart of the tourist sites in Marpi, drawing bikers, hikers, and even those just looking for a leisure walk.

TRAC vice president Manny Sitchon said significant improvements and proper maintenance of the North Trail would ensure the safety of both residents and visitors and help in the promotion of sport tourism in the CNMI.

Some parts of the North Trail were utilized for XTERRA Saipan, which used to be among the signature events of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The off-road triathlon event dubbed as XTERRA's Jewel used to bring hundreds of triathletes from across the globe to Saipan every year since it debuted on island in 2002, but it was discontinued in 2018 due to budgetary constraints. Trail runs and team building activities are also held at the North Trail.

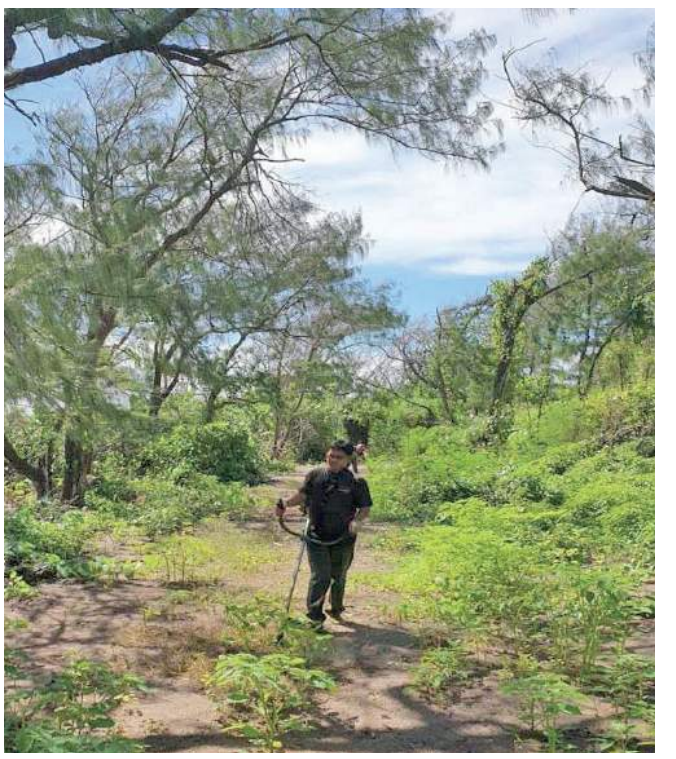
"As we worked on improvements at the North Trail, we can start planning for events that will cater to both on-island and off-island sports enthusiasts and nature lovers," Sitchon said.

Besides the maintenance and signage construction, TRAC and NMICF have also proposed creating special features at the North Trail, specifically the Banzai Trail. They suggested to create a viewing deck with benches, double bubble ramp, shore-bridge system, teeter totter, and curved wall. All these features will make the Banzail Trail an attraction not only to triathletes, but their family members as well, as the spot can be turned into a bike park that can host a lot of fun activities for people of all ages.

"The proposed development projects at the North Trail are not only for sports-related events, but also for other activities, which the community and our visitors can engage in while still enjoying what Mother Nature has to offer," said NMIFC's Jay Diyco, who joined his group and TRAC in last month's clean-up drive at the North Trail. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation and Triathlon Association of the CNMI volunteers work on the equipment the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers provided to the two sports groups for their clean-up drive and clearing project at the North Trail.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A volunteer from Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation and Triathlon Association of the CNMI clears one of the trails during their clean-up drive at the North Trail.

BALAKRISHNA

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also had a closest to the pin shot—the longer par-3 hole No. 11 (170 yards). The two other closest to the pin contests were won by Krishnan, who hit the KP on the 150-yard No. 4 and 139-yard No. 6.

The May Ace winner also made a closest to the pin drive on the par-5 and longest hole—the 502-yard No. 18. Guerrero matched Krishnan's longest drive feat on the par-4, 346-yard hole No. 9.

Meanwhile, SGA will continue to hold make-up tournaments with the August Ace event scheduled for this Sunday, also at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The association is catching up with its monthly competitions after missing several tournaments early this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tee time for this weekend's event is 9am, while show time is at 8:30am.

Buffalo Bills apply to trademark fan base's Mafia nickname

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — The Mafia is becoming legitimate in Buffalo—the Bills Mafia that is.

The Bills last week filed an application to trademark the fan base's adopted nickname in preparation to launch a series of branded merchandise and apparel available at Buffalo's team store and sold online.

Bills Mafia, which first became popular in 2011 and for years was considered taboo by the Bills and NFL because of its connotation of organized crime, will be featured on everything from T-shirts to potentially pajamas, and available as early as this week.

"We felt like we needed to embrace this, because it had really turned into a community spirit," said Ron Raccuia, executive vice president of the Bills' parent company, Pegula Sports and Entertainment. "Our players and our coaching staff have really been engaged with it, and it just became very natural."

Just as important, the Bills are collaborating with members of the Bills Mafia fan base, including Del Reid, who coined the phrase and has since launched a T-shirt business.

"I don't like using the word godfather," Raccuia joked, "but (Reid) and his partners came up with this idea, they brought it to life. We wouldn't be here without them. And they're certainly going to be a big part of this ride going forward."

That wasn't always the view of Bills management, going back to the days of Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson, who died in 2014. Rather than acknowledge the nickname, the team would go out of its way to avoid its mention.

Another concern was how Bills Mafia became mischaracterized on social media, which focused on the team's rowdier, table-breaking fans, while overlooking the charitable work done on behalf of the nickname over the years.

"Bills Mafia has always stood for support of the team, not just the team in general, but the players themselves individually, like it's a family thing," said Reid, who came up with Bills Mafia as an inside joke.

The nickname stemmed from former Bills receiver Stevie Johnson questioning God on Twitter for having a sure touchdown pass fall through his hands in overtime of a 19-16 loss to Pittsburgh on Nov. 28, 2010. Johnson's tweet went viral immediately following the game.

Reid and numerous Bills fans, however, took issue with ESPN.com's Adam Schefter for what they viewed as attempting to bring attention to himself by retweeting Johnson's post a day later. Reid and many others were eventually blocked by Schefter.

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crew in the long distance race, recalled how they battled Hong Kong neck-and-neck before gaining some cushion heading back to the shore.

"It's the hardest race out of the three that we won, not only because of the distance, but because of how tough our closest competitor is. They are more experienced paddlers and are used to long distance races," Cruz said.

The MOC member added that going into the final day of the competition, they don't know how they will be performing in the long course, so topping the race was really a surprise.

"We know we are competitive because we trained and prepared hard for the event, working on our techniques and conditioning, but we did not expect to sweep all three races, especially win the long course. The thing with the long distance race is you have to be smart and understand the condition of the water and the wind and use them to your advantage. In the long course, it's a matter of who's going to give up first and who's going to hang on tight and trust their teammates," Cruz said.

With its rare sweep in the 2016 edition of the Micro Cup, MOC was named Team of the Year during the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet.

Then in the 19th Micro Cup hosted by Guam, MOC nearly duplicated its 2016 feat after winning the 500m and long distance race anew. The group missed the 1,000m title after placing second to BKC Men, which posted 5:48.1 in the finals against MOC's 5:49.3.

Meanwhile, the Micro Cup this year was supposed to be hosted by Guam anew, but it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making it the second time in three years there's no regional meet for paddlers. In 2018, the CNMI-hosted Micro Cup was scrapped due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

Lowe homers twice, Rays even World Series

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Balakrishna survives tiebreak

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Steve Balakrishna, seen here watching his shot during a local tournament, won the Saipan Golfers Association's July Ace title.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Golfers Association's July Ace Tournament turned out to be the toughest so far this season, as three players ended up tied for the lead after last Sunday's competition at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Nick Sablan, Steve Balakrishna, and Alex Tudela logged identical net scores of 69 on the east course of the Kagman facility. Sablan managed to win the tiebreak via the scorecard playoffs, but since he already took the March Ace, Balakrishna got the July Ace, nosing out Tudela, also through the scorecard playoffs.

The 11-handicapper Balakrishna played consistently in last weekend's tournament after shotting 40s on the front and back nines for a gross 80 and net 69. Tudela is also an 11 handicapper and matched Balakrishna's net and gross scores after recording 41 in the first nine holes and 39 in the last. The 5-handicapper Sablan, on the other hand, was in his usual top form after delivering an even par 36 on the front nine and 2-over par 38 on the back for a gross 74.

With Balakrishna getting the July Ace, he also earned a spot on the SGA Ace of Aces (club championship) joining Sablan, Attorney General Edward Manibusan (January), Jung Eun Teack (February), Juan "Pan" Guerrero (April), Das Krishnan (May), and House vice speaker Larry Deleon Guerrero (June).

Balakrishna's July Ace victory was highlighted by a closest to the pin shot on the par-3, 122-yard hole No. 15. Sablan

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Flashback: MOC paddlers dominate Micro Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

On this day, four years ago, the Marianas Outrigger Club capped its outstanding performance in the men's open division of the 18th Micronesia Cup by topping the long course race of the event held in Koror, Palau.

MOC, which was represented by Jose Quan, Vince Tudela, Bobby Cruz, Rich Salas, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Billy Grow, Angel San Nicolas, James Lee, and captain Dino Manning in the Oct. 22-23, 2016 tournament, completed the 12-mile long course in 1:28:16. The visiting paddlers beat the tough Hong Kong United (1:31:05) and home team PCC Mesekiu 3 (1:32:07) in the longest race of the competition in the waters off Meyuns Seaplane Ramp.

With the victory in the last day of the event, MOC earned a 3-peat, becoming the first team from the CNMI to win all three races in the men's division.

MOC, during the opening day of the tournament, went 2-0, after prevailing in the 500m and 1,500m races. The club gained top honors first in the 1, 500m race after finishing the three-lap course in 7:31.85. MOC was nearly 12 seconds ahead of Guam's Taotao Galaide Ma'aksom, which clocked in at 7:43.53 and won by more than 20 seconds against the third-ranked Belau Kanu Club Waterfalls (7:53.52).

For the 500m sprint, the MOC paddlers also reached the finish line first way ahead of their competitors after submitting 2:08.56. Belau Kanu Club Waterfall was nearly four seconds behind MOC with the former logging 2:12.22, while Taotao Galaide Ma'aksom completed the Top 3 after posting 2:14.22. Three other teams joined the sprints finals with Palau's PCC Mesekiu 3, IFIT, and PCC Mesekiu 1 checking in at 2:14.71, 2:24.22, and 2:25.10, respectively.

Cruz, who was part of the MOC

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2016 file photo, Marianas Outrigger Club paddlers pose together before their races in the Micronesian Cup held in Koror, Palau.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Outrigger Club members paddle their way to the finish line of the 500m race in the 2017 Micronesia Cup at the Matapang Beach in Guam.